

Calendar No. 223

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 46

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 26, 2021

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. COONS, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

DECEMBER 17, 2021

Reported by Ms. CANTWELL, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) ~~SHORT TITLE.~~—This Act may be cited as the
5 ~~“Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021”.~~

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION
ACT OF 2000

Sec. 101. Reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

Sec. 102. Modification to section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of
2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403).

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

Sec. 201. Establishment.

Sec. 202. Duties.

Sec. 203. Membership.

Sec. 204. Responsibilities of Federal agency members.

Sec. 205. Working groups.

Sec. 206. Definitions.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF
AUTHORITIES

Sec. 301. Coral reef conservation and restoration assistance.

TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS NATIONAL CORAL REEF
MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Sec. 403. Establishment of fellowship program.

Sec. 404. Fellowship awards.

Sec. 405. Matching requirement.

3 **TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF**
4 **CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**
5 **ACT OF 2000**

6 **SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVA-**
7 **TION ACT OF 2000.**

8 (a) PURPOSES; FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGE-
9 MENT AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—The Coral Reef
10 Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is
11 amended by striking sections 202 and 203 and inserting
12 the following:

1 **“SEC. 202. PURPOSES.**

2 “The purposes of this title are—

3 “(1) to preserve, sustain, and restore the condi-
4 tion of United States coral reef ecosystems chal-
5 lenged by natural and human-accelerated changes,
6 including increasing ocean temperatures, ocean
7 acidification, coral bleaching, coral diseases, water
8 quality degradation, invasive species, and illegal, un-
9 reported, and unregulated fishing;

10 “(2) to promote the science-based management
11 and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to ben-
12 efit local communities and the Nation, including
13 through improved integration and cooperation
14 among Federal, State, and locally managed jurisdic-
15 tions with coral reef equities;

16 “(3) to develop sound scientific information on
17 the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing
18 and emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the
19 efficacy of innovative tools, technologies, and strate-
20 gies to mitigate stressors and restore such eco-
21 systems, including evaluation criteria to determine
22 the effectiveness of management interventions, and
23 accurate mapping for coral reef restoration;

24 “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs
25 by supporting science-based, consensus-driven State,
26 Tribal, and community-based coral reef manage-

1 ment, including conservation and restoration
2 projects that empower local communities, small busi-
3 nesses, and nongovernmental organizations;

4 “(5) to provide financial resources, technical as-
5 sistance, and scientific expertise to supplement and
6 strengthen State and community-based management
7 programs and conservation and restoration projects;

8 “(6) to establish a formal mechanism for col-
9 lecting and allocating monetary donations from the
10 private sector to be used for coral reef conservation
11 and restoration projects;

12 “(7) to support the rapid and effective, science-
13 based assessment and response to emergencies that
14 imminently threaten coral reefs, such as coral dis-
15 ease outbreaks, invasive species, hurricanes, marine
16 heat waves, coral bleaching, and other natural disas-
17 ters, vessel groundings or chemical spills, and other
18 exigent circumstances; and

19 “(8) to serve as a model for advancing similar
20 international efforts to preserve, sustain, and restore
21 coral reef ecosystems in the jurisdictions of United
22 States allies and trading partners.

1 **“SEC. 203. FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-**
 2 **TORATION ACTIVITIES.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator or the Sec-
 4 retary of the Interior may conduct activities described in
 5 subsection (b) to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral
 6 reef ecosystems that are consistent with—

7 “(1) all applicable laws governing resource
 8 management in Federal and State waters, including
 9 this Act;

10 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy
 11 in effect under section 204A;

12 “(3) coral reef action plans in effect under sec-
 13 tion 205, as applicable; and

14 “(4) coral reef emergency plans in effect under
 15 section 209, as applicable.

16 “(b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Activities described
 17 in this subsection are activities to conserve, research, mon-
 18 itor, assess, and restore coral reefs and coral reef eco-
 19 systems in waters managed under the jurisdiction of a
 20 Federal agency specified in subsection (c) or in coordina-
 21 tion with a State in waters managed under the jurisdiction
 22 of such State, including—

23 “(1) developing, including through the collection
 24 of requisite data, high-quality and digitized maps re-
 25 flecting—

1 “(A) current and historical live coral cover
2 data;

3 “(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

4 “(C) priority areas for coral reef conserva-
5 tion to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem
6 structure and function that benefit coastal com-
7 munities and living marine resources;

8 “(D) priority areas for coral reef restora-
9 tion to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem
10 structure and function to benefit coastal com-
11 munities and living marine resources; and

12 “(E) areas of concern that may require en-
13 hanced monitoring of coral health and cover;

14 “(2) enhancing compliance with Federal laws
15 that prohibit or regulate—

16 “(A) the taking of coral products or spe-
17 cies associated with coral reefs; or

18 “(B) the use and management of coral reef
19 ecosystems;

20 “(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral
21 reef ecosystems;

22 “(4) implementing species-specific recovery
23 plans for listed coral species consistent with the En-
24 dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et
25 seq.);

1 “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

2 “(6) promoting ecologically sound navigation
3 and anchorages, including mooring buoy systems to
4 promote enhanced recreational access, near coral
5 reefs;

6 “(7) monitoring and responding to severe
7 bleaching or mortality events, disease outbreaks,
8 invasive species outbreaks, and significant maritime
9 accidents, including chemical spill cleanup and the
10 removal of grounded vessels;

11 “(8) conducting scientific research that contrib-
12 utes to the understanding, sustainable use, and long-
13 term conservation of coral reefs;

14 “(9) enhancing public awareness, under-
15 standing, and appreciation of coral reefs and coral
16 reef ecosystems;

17 “(10) preventing or minimizing the likelihood of
18 vessel impacts or other physical damage to coral
19 reefs through navigational aids and expansion of
20 reef-safe anchorages; and

21 “(11) centrally archiving, managing, and dis-
22 tributing data sets and coral reef ecosystem assess-
23 ments and publishing such information on publicly
24 available internet websites of—

1 “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program
 2 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
 3 ministration; and

4 “(B) the Task Force.

5 “(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A Federal
 6 agency specified in this subsection is one of the following:

7 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric
 8 Administration.

9 “(2) The National Park Service.

10 “(3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
 11 ice.

12 “(4) The Office of Insular Affairs.

13 “(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability
 15 of appropriations and at the discretion of the Sec-
 16 retary of Commerce, the Administrator may enter
 17 into cooperative agreements with States to fund
 18 coral reef conservation and restoration activities in
 19 waters managed under the jurisdiction of such
 20 States that are consistent with the national coral
 21 reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204A.

22 “(2) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may not
 23 provide more than \$500,000 in total funding under
 24 paragraph (1) to any one State in any fiscal year.”.

1 (b) ~~ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.~~—The Coral Reef Con-
 2 servation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended
 3 by striking sections 205 through 210 and inserting the
 4 following:

5 “~~SEC. 204A. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRAT-~~
 6 ~~EGY.~~

7 “(a) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—The Administrator shall—

8 “(1) develop a national coral reef resilience
 9 strategy; and

10 “(2) periodically, but not less frequently than
 11 every 15 years, review and revise the strategy.

12 “(b) ~~ELEMENTS.~~—The strategy required by sub-
 13 section (a) shall include the following:

14 “(1) A discussion addressing—

15 “(A) continuing and emerging threats to
 16 the resilience of United States coral reef eco-
 17 systems;

18 “(B) remaining gaps in coral reef eco-
 19 system research, monitoring, and assessment;

20 “(C) the status of management coopera-
 21 tion and integration among Federal, State,
 22 Tribal, and locally managed jurisdictions with
 23 coral reef equities;

24 “(D) the status of efforts to manage and
 25 disseminate critical information, and enhance

1 interjurisdictional data sharing, related to re-
2 search, reports, datasets, and maps;

3 “(E) areas of special focus, which may in-
4 clude—

5 “(i) improving natural coral recruit-
6 ment;

7 “(ii) preventing avoidable losses of
8 corals and their habitat;

9 “(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral
10 populations;

11 “(iv) supporting a resilience-based
12 management approach;

13 “(v) developing, coordinating, and im-
14 plementing watershed management plans;

15 “(vi) building and sustaining water-
16 shed management capacity at the local
17 level;

18 “(vii) providing data essential for
19 coral reef fisheries management;

20 “(viii) building capacity for coral reef
21 fisheries management;

22 “(ix) increasing understanding of
23 coral reef ecosystem services;

1 “(x) educating the public on the im-
 2 portance of coral reefs, threats and solu-
 3 tions; and

4 “(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;
 5 “(F) the status of conservation efforts, in-
 6 cluding the use of marine protected areas to
 7 serve as replenishment zones developed con-
 8 sistent with local practices and traditions and
 9 in cooperation with, and with respect for the
 10 scientific, technical, and management expertise
 11 and responsibilities of, State fish and wildlife
 12 management agencies; and

13 “(G) science-based adaptive management
 14 and restoration efforts.

15 “(2) A statement of national goals and objec-
 16 tives designed to guide—

17 “(A) future Federal coral reef management
 18 and restoration activities authorized under sec-
 19 tion 203;

20 “(B) conservation and restoration prior-
 21 ities for grants awarded under section 213; and

22 “(C) research priorities for the cooperative
 23 institutes established under section 215(e).

24 “(3) General templates for use by covered reef
 25 managers to guide the development of—

1 “(A) coral reef action plans under section
2 205; and

3 “(B) coral reef emergency plans under sec-
4 tion 209.

5 “(e) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing all elements of
6 the strategy required by subsection (a), the Administrator
7 shall—

8 “(1) consult with the Secretary of the Interior,
9 the Task Force, covered States, and Tribal organiza-
10 tions;

11 “(2) engage stakeholders, including coral reef
12 stewardship partnerships, coral reef institutes and
13 research centers described in section 215(e), and
14 coral reef conservation grant awardees; and

15 “(3) solicit public review and comment regard-
16 ing scoping and the draft strategy.

17 “(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—
18 The Administrator shall—

19 “(1) submit the strategy required by subsection
20 (a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appro-
21 priate congressional committees; and

22 “(2) publish the strategy and any such revisions
23 on publicly available internet websites of—

1 “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program
 2 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
 3 ministration; and

4 “(B) the Task Force.

5 “(e) TRANSITION RULE.—On and after the date of
 6 the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of
 7 2021, the 2018 Coral Reef Conservation Program Stra-
 8 tegic Plan of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
 9 ministration shall be considered to be the national coral
 10 reef resilience strategy in effect under this section until
 11 the earlier of—

12 “(1) September 30, 2033; or

13 “(2) the date on which the Administrator devel-
 14 ops a national coral reef resilience strategy under
 15 this section.

16 **“SEC. 205. CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.**

17 “(a) CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—Except as pro-
 18 vided in subsection (h), not later than 3 years after the
 19 date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act
 20 of 2021, and not later than 2 years after the publication
 21 of a revised national coral reef resilience strategy under
 22 section 204A, each covered reef manager shall prepare and
 23 submit to the Task Force a coral reef action plan to guide
 24 management and restoration activities to be undertaken
 25 within the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the manager.

1 “(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—A covered reef manager pre-
 2 paring a coral reef action plan under subsection (a)
 3 shall—

4 “(1) ensure that the plan is consistent with all
 5 elements of the national coral reef resilience strategy
 6 in effect; and

7 “(2) revise the plan not less frequently than
 8 once every 5 years.

9 “(c) **PLAN ELEMENTS.**—A coral reef action plan
 10 under subsection (a) shall include a discussion of the fol-
 11 lowing elements:

12 “(1) Short- and mid-term coral reef conserva-
 13 tion and restoration objectives within the applicable
 14 jurisdiction.

15 “(2) An updated adaptive management frame-
 16 work to inform research, monitoring, and assessment
 17 needs.

18 “(3) The status of any coral reef emergency
 19 plans in effect under section 209 covering coral reef
 20 ecosystems within the applicable jurisdiction.

21 “(4) Tools, strategies, and partnerships nec-
 22 essary to identify, monitor, and redress pollution
 23 and water quality impacts to coral reef ecosystems
 24 within the applicable jurisdiction.

1 ~~“(5) The status of efforts to improve coral reef~~
2 ~~ecosystem management cooperation and integration~~
3 ~~among neighboring Federal, State, Tribal, or locally~~
4 ~~managed jurisdictions, including the identification of~~
5 ~~existing research and monitoring activities that can~~
6 ~~be leveraged for coral reef status and trends assess-~~
7 ~~ments within the applicable jurisdiction.~~

8 ~~“(6) An accounting of annual expenditures on~~
9 ~~coral reef management and restoration activities~~
10 ~~within the applicable jurisdiction while the preceding~~
11 ~~action plan, if any, was in effect.~~

12 ~~“(7) Estimated budgetary and resource consid-~~
13 ~~erations necessary to carry out the proposed action~~
14 ~~plan.~~

15 ~~“(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator~~
16 ~~and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to~~
17 ~~provide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef~~
18 ~~manager developing a coral reef action plan under sub-~~
19 ~~section (a).~~

20 ~~“(e) ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.—~~
21 ~~A covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef action plan~~
22 ~~developed by another covered reef manager, in full or in~~
23 ~~part, as relevant to the adopting manager’s applicable ju-~~
24 ~~risdiction.~~

1 “(f) PUBLIC REVIEW.—The development of a coral
2 reef action plan by a covered reef manager under sub-
3 section (a); and the adoption of a plan under subsection
4 (e), shall be subject to public review and comment.

5 “(g) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish
6 each coral reef action plan prepared and submitted to the
7 Task Force under this section on publicly available inter-
8 net websites of—

9 “(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of
10 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
11 tion; and

12 “(2) the Task Force.

13 “(h) APPLICABILITY TO COVERED STATES AND
14 CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—A covered
15 State or non-Federal coral reef stewardship partnership
16 is not required to develop a coral reef action plan under
17 subsection (a); but may do so in its own discretion. In
18 developing a coral reef action plan, a covered State or non-
19 Federal coral reef stewardship partnership is encouraged,
20 but not mandated, to comply with the requirements of this
21 section.

22 “(i) PLAN IN EFFECT.—A coral reef action plan shall
23 be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted to
24 the Task Force under this section during the preceding
25 6 years.

1 **~~“SEC. 206. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.~~**

2 ~~“(a) CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.—~~

3 The Administrator shall establish standards for the forma-
 4 tion of partnerships among government and community
 5 members for the stewardship of coral reefs (in this title
 6 referred to as ‘coral reef stewardship partnerships’) in ac-
 7 cordance with this section, including guidance for prepara-
 8 tion and submission of coral reef action plans under sec-
 9 tion 205.

10 ~~“(b) IDENTIFICATION OF REEFS.—Each coral reef~~
 11 ~~stewardship partnership shall identify with particularity~~
 12 ~~the coral reef or ecologically significant component of a~~
 13 ~~coral reef that will be the subject of its stewardship activi-~~
 14 ~~ties.~~

15 ~~“(c) MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL REEFS.—A coral~~
 16 ~~reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as the~~
 17 ~~subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or eco-~~
 18 ~~logically significant component of a coral reef that is fully~~
 19 ~~or partially under the management jurisdiction of any~~
 20 ~~Federal agency specified in section 203(e) shall, at a min-~~
 21 ~~imum, include the following:~~

22 ~~“(1) That Federal agency, a representative of~~
 23 ~~which shall serve as chair of the coral reef steward-~~
 24 ~~ship partnership.~~

25 ~~“(2) A State, county, or Tribal organization’s~~
 26 ~~resource management agency.~~

1 ~~“(3) A coral reef research center described in~~
 2 ~~section 215(c)(4) or another institution of higher~~
 3 ~~education.~~

4 ~~“(4) A nongovernmental organization.~~

5 ~~“(5) Such other members as the partnership~~
 6 ~~considers appropriate, such as interested stakeholder~~
 7 ~~groups.~~

8 ~~“(d) MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-FEDERAL REEFS.—~~

9 ~~“(1) IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship~~
 10 ~~partnership that has identified, as the subject of its~~
 11 ~~stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically sig-~~
 12 ~~nificant component of a coral reef that is not under~~
 13 ~~the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency~~
 14 ~~specified in section 203(e) shall, at a minimum, in-~~
 15 ~~clude the following:~~

16 ~~“(A) A State, county, or Tribal organiza-~~
 17 ~~tion’s resource management agency, a rep-~~
 18 ~~resentative of which shall serve as the chair of~~
 19 ~~the coral reef stewardship partnership.~~

20 ~~“(B) A coral reef research center described~~
 21 ~~in section 215(c)(4) or another institution of~~
 22 ~~higher education.~~

23 ~~“(C) A nongovernmental organization.~~

1 ~~“(D) Such other members as the partner-~~
 2 ~~ship considers appropriate, such as interested~~
 3 ~~stakeholder groups.~~

4 ~~“(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—~~

5 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-~~
 6 ~~graph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership~~
 7 ~~described in paragraph (1) may also include~~
 8 ~~representatives of one or more Federal agencies~~
 9 ~~that have management responsibility in the reef~~
 10 ~~that is the subject of the partnership’s steward-~~
 11 ~~ship activities.~~

12 ~~“(B) REQUESTS; APPROVAL.—A represent-~~
 13 ~~ative of a Federal agency described in subpara-~~
 14 ~~graph (A) may become a member of a coral reef~~
 15 ~~stewardship partnership described in paragraph~~
 16 ~~(1) if—~~

17 ~~“(i) the representative submits a re-~~
 18 ~~quest to become a member to the chair of~~
 19 ~~the partnership referred to in paragraph~~
 20 ~~(1)(A); and~~

21 ~~“(ii) the chair consents to the request.~~

22 ~~“(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY~~
 23 ~~COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act~~
 24 ~~(5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coral reef stewardship~~
 25 ~~partnerships.~~

1 **~~“SEC. 207. STATE BLOCK GRANTS.~~**

2 ~~“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide~~
 3 ~~block grants of financial assistance to covered States to~~
 4 ~~support management and restoration activities and fur-~~
 5 ~~ther the implementation of coral reef action plans in effect~~
 6 ~~under section 205 by covered States and non-Federal coral~~
 7 ~~reef stewardship partnerships.~~

8 ~~“(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—A~~
 9 ~~covered State shall qualify for and receive additional grant~~
 10 ~~amounts beyond the base award specified in subsection~~
 11 ~~(c)(1) if there is at least one coral reef action plan in effect~~
 12 ~~within the jurisdiction of the covered State developed by~~
 13 ~~that covered State or a non-Federal coral reef stewardship~~
 14 ~~partnership.~~

15 ~~“(c) FUNDING FORMULA.—Subject to the availability~~
 16 ~~of appropriations, the amount of each block grant awarded~~
 17 ~~to a covered State under this section shall be the sum of—~~

18 ~~“(1) a base award of \$100,000; and~~

19 ~~“(2) if the State is eligible under subsection~~
 20 ~~(b)—~~

21 ~~“(A) an amount that is equal to non-Fed-~~
 22 ~~eral expenditures of up to \$3,000,000 on coral~~
 23 ~~reef management and restoration activities~~
 24 ~~within the jurisdiction of the State, as reported~~
 25 ~~within the previous fiscal year; and~~

1 “(B) an additional amount, from any
 2 funds appropriated for block grants under this
 3 section that remain after distribution under
 4 subparagraph (A) and paragraph (1), based on
 5 the proportion of the State’s share of total non-
 6 Federal expenditures on coral reef management
 7 and restoration activities, as reported within the
 8 previous fiscal year, in excess of \$3,000,000,
 9 relative to other covered States.

10 “(d) EXCLUSIONS.—For the purposes of calculating
 11 block grant amounts under subsection (c), Federal funds
 12 provided to a covered State or non-Federal coral reef stew-
 13 ardship partnership shall not be considered as qualifying
 14 non-Federal expenditures, but non-Federal matching
 15 funds used to leverage Federal awards may be considered
 16 as qualifying non-Federal expenditures.

17 “(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—
 18 The Administrator is responsible for—

19 “(1) providing guidance on qualifying non-Fed-
 20 eral expenditures and the proper documentation of
 21 such expenditures;

22 “(2) issuing annual solicitations to covered
 23 States for additional awards under this section; and

1 “(3) determining the appropriate allocation of
2 additional amounts among covered States in accord-
3 ance with this section.

4 “(f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.—Each
5 covered State is responsible for documenting non-Federal
6 expenditures within the jurisdiction of the State and for-
7 mally reporting those expenditures for review in response
8 to annual solicitations by the Administrator under sub-
9 section (e).

10 “(g) UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts avail-
11 able for block grants under this section that are not ex-
12 pended shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship
13 Fund under section 208(b).

14 “(h) WAIVERS OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—The
15 Administrator may waive the eligibility requirements
16 under subsection (b) through fiscal year 2023.

17 **“SEC. 208. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

18 “(a) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.—
19 The Administrator may enter into an agreement with the
20 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (in this section re-
21 ferred to as the ‘Foundation’), authorizing the Foundation
22 to receive, hold, and administer funds received under this
23 section.

24 “(b) FUND.—The Foundation shall invest, reinvest,
25 and otherwise administer the funds received under this

1 section and maintain such funds and any interest or reve-
 2 nues earned in a separate interest-bearing account, to be
 3 known as the ‘Coral Reef Stewardship Fund’ (in this sec-
 4 tion referred to as the ‘Fund’, and known before the date
 5 of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of
 6 2021 as the Coral Reef Conservation Fund administered
 7 through a public-private partnership with the Founda-
 8 tion), established by the Foundation solely to support
 9 coral reef stewardship partnership activities that—

10 “(1) further the purposes of this title; and

11 “(2) are consistent with—

12 “(A) the national coral reef resilience
 13 strategy in effect under section 204A; and

14 “(B) coral reef action plans in effect, if
 15 any, under section 205 covering a coral reef or
 16 ecologically significant component of a coral
 17 reef to be impacted by such activities, if appli-
 18 cable.

19 “(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement
 21 entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation
 22 may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use
 23 any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of
 24 title 31, United States Code, donations of services)
 25 to further the purposes of this title.

1 “(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding
 2 section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any
 3 funds received as a gift shall be deposited and main-
 4 tained in the Fund.

5 “(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Not later than
 6 30 days after funds are deposited in the Fund under
 7 paragraph (2), the Foundation shall notify the Com-
 8 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the
 9 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
 10 resentatives of the source and amount of such funds.

11 “(d) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.—The Adminis-
 12 trator shall conduct a continuing review of all deposits
 13 into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each review shall
 14 include a written assessment concerning the extent to
 15 which the Foundation has implemented the goals and re-
 16 quirements of—

17 “(1) this section; and

18 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy
 19 in effect under section 204A.

20 “(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement en-
 21 tered into pursuant to subsection (a), and subject to the
 22 availability of appropriations, the Administrator may
 23 transfer funds appropriated to carry out this title to the
 24 Foundation. Amounts received by the Foundation under
 25 this subsection may be used for matching, in whole or in

1 part, contributions (whether in money, services, or prop-
 2 erty) made to the Foundation by private persons, State
 3 or local government agencies, or Tribal organizations.

4 **“SEC. 209. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY PLANS.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered reef manager may de-
 6 velop and periodically update a plan (in this title referred
 7 to as a ‘coral reef emergency plan’) consistent with the
 8 template described in section 204A(b)(3) to guide the
 9 rapid and effective response to circumstances that pose
 10 an urgent and immediate threat to the coral reef eco-
 11 systems within the manager’s responsibilities and jurisdic-
 12 tions, and consistent with any applicable coral reef action
 13 plan.

14 “(b) CORAL REEF EMERGENCIES.—The Adminis-
 15 trator shall develop a list of, and criteria for, cir-
 16 cumstances that pose an urgent and immediate threat to
 17 coral reefs (in this title referred to as ‘coral reef emer-
 18 gencies’), including—

19 “(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;

20 “(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive or
 21 nuisance species;

22 “(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;

23 “(4) natural disasters;

1 “(5) man-made disasters, including vessel
2 groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal construction
3 accidents; and

4 “(6) other exigent circumstances.

5 “(e) BEST RESPONSE PRACTICES.—The Adminis-
6 trator shall develop guidance on best practices to respond
7 to coral reef emergencies that can be adopted within coral
8 reef emergency plans. Such best practices shall be—

9 “(1) based on the best available science and in-
10 tegrated with evolving innovative technologies; and

11 “(2) revised not less frequently than once every
12 5 years.

13 “(d) PLAN ELEMENTS.—A coral reef emergency plan
14 shall include the following elements:

15 “(1) A description of particular threats, and the
16 proposed responses, consistent with the best prac-
17 tices developed under subsection (d).

18 “(2) A delineation of roles and responsibilities
19 for executing the plan.

20 “(3) Evidence of engagement with interested
21 stakeholder groups, as applicable, in the develop-
22 ment of the plan.

23 “(4) Any other information the Administrator
24 considers to be necessary for the plan.

1 “(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator
 2 and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to
 3 provide technical assistance upon request by a covered reef
 4 manager developing a coral reef emergency plan under
 5 subsection (a).
 6

7 “(f) ADOPTION OF CORAL REEF EMERGENCY
 8 PLANS.—A covered reef manager may adopt a coral reef
 9 emergency plan developed by another covered reef man-
 10 ager, in full or in part, as relevant to the adopting man-
 11 ager’s applicable jurisdiction.
 12

13 “(g) PUBLIC REVIEW.—The development of a coral
 14 reef action plan by a covered reef manager under sub-
 15 section (a), and the adoption of a plan under subsection
 16 (f), shall be subject to public review and comment.
 17

18 “(h) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish
 19 each coral reef emergency plan prepared and submitted
 20 to the Task Force under this section on publicly available
 21 internet websites of—
 22

23 “(1) the Coral Reef Conservation Program of
 24 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administra-
 25 tion; and
 26

27 “(2) the Task Force.
 28

29 “(i) PLAN IN EFFECT.—A coral reef emergency plan
 30 shall be deemed to be in effect if the plan was submitted
 31

1 to the Task Force under this section during the preceding
 2 6 years.

3 **“SEC. 210. CORAL REEF EMERGENCY FUND.**

4 “(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.**—There is estab-
 5 lished in the Treasury an interest-bearing fund to be
 6 known as the ‘Coral Reef Emergency Fund’, which shall
 7 consist of amounts deposited into the Fund under sub-
 8 section (c).

9 “(b) **USES.**—Amounts in the Fund—

10 “(1) shall be available only for use by the Sec-
 11 retary to compensate covered coral reef managers to
 12 implement a coral reef emergency plan in effect
 13 under sections 210 and 212; and

14 “(2) shall remain available until expended.

15 “(c) **DEPOSITS INTO THE FUND.**—Subject to the
 16 availability of appropriations, there shall be deposited into
 17 the Fund—

18 “(1) amounts appropriated for the Fund; and

19 “(2) other amounts appropriated to the Sec-
 20 retary for use with respect to coral reef emergencies.

21 “(d) **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS.**—

22 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of carrying
 23 out this title, the Secretary may accept, receive, so-
 24 licit, hold, administer, and use any gift (including,

1 notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United
 2 States Code, donations of services).

3 ~~“(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—~~Notwithstanding
 4 section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any
 5 funds received as a gift shall be deposited and main-
 6 tained in the Fund.

7 **~~“SEC. 211. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.~~**

8 ~~“(a) CORAL REEF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS.—~~

9 ~~“(1) SUA SPONTE DECLARATION.—~~

10 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—~~The Secretary may
 11 determine and declare a coral reef emergency,
 12 including at the recommendation of the Sec-
 13 retary of the Interior.

14 ~~“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—~~In declaring a
 15 coral reef emergency under subparagraph (A),
 16 the Secretary shall—

17 ~~“(i) certify that an emergency has oc-~~
 18 ~~curred that is ecologically significant and~~
 19 ~~harmful to coral reefs; and~~

20 ~~“(ii) submit to the appropriate con-~~
 21 ~~gressional committees findings and anal-~~
 22 ~~ysis to justify the declaration.~~

23 ~~“(2) PETITIONS.—~~If a covered State or non-
 24 Federal coral reef stewardship partnership believes
 25 that a coral reef emergency has occurred, and is im-

1 pacting coral reefs or ecologically significant compo-
 2 nents of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities or
 3 jurisdiction of the State or partnership, the State or
 4 partnership may petition the Secretary for a declara-
 5 tion of a coral reef emergency.

6 ~~“(3) EVALUATION AND ACTION.—~~

7 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30~~
 8 ~~days after receiving a petition under paragraph~~
 9 ~~(2) (except as provided in subparagraph (B));~~
 10 ~~the Secretary shall—~~

11 ~~“(i) evaluate the petition to determine~~
 12 ~~whether a coral reef emergency has oc-~~
 13 ~~curred; and~~

14 ~~“(ii) declare a coral reef emergency or~~
 15 ~~deny the petition.~~

16 ~~“(B) EXTENSION.—The Secretary may ex-~~
 17 ~~tend the deadline provided for under subpara-~~
 18 ~~graph (A) by not more than 15 days.~~

19 ~~“(4) APPEAL.—If the Secretary denies a peti-~~
 20 ~~tion for an emergency declaration submitted under~~
 21 ~~paragraph (2), the State or partnership that sub-~~
 22 ~~mitted the petition may, not later than 15 days after~~
 23 ~~receiving notice of the denial, appeal the denial to~~
 24 ~~the Secretary. Not later than 15 days after receiving~~

1 an appeal under this paragraph, the Secretary shall
 2 grant or deny the appeal.

3 ~~“(5) REVOCATION.—~~The Secretary may revoke
 4 any declaration of a coral reef emergency in whole
 5 or in part after determining that circumstances no
 6 longer require an emergency response.

7 ~~“(6) RECOVERY OF EMERGENCY FUNDING.—~~
 8 The Administrator may seek compensation from
 9 negligent parties to recover emergency funds ex-
 10 pended in excess of \$500,000 under this section as
 11 a result of an emergency declaration arising from di-
 12 rect impacts to coral reefs from man-made disasters
 13 or accidents.

14 ~~“(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—~~

15 ~~“(1) IN GENERAL.—~~Subject to the availability
 16 of appropriations, upon the declaration of a coral
 17 reef emergency under subsection (a), the Secretary
 18 shall provide grants to carry out proposals that meet
 19 the requirements of paragraph (2) to implement
 20 coral reef emergency plans in effect under section
 21 ~~209.~~

22 ~~“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—~~A proposal for a grant
 23 under this subsection to implement a coral reef
 24 emergency plan in effect under section 209 shall in-
 25 clude—

1 “(A) the name of the entity submitting the
2 proposal;

3 “(B) a copy of the coral reef emergency
4 plan;

5 “(C) a description of the qualifications of
6 the individuals and entities who will implement
7 the plan;

8 “(D) an estimate of the funds and time re-
9 quired to complete the implementation of the
10 plan; and

11 “(E) any other information the Secretary
12 considers to be necessary for evaluating the eli-
13 gibility of the proposal for a grant under this
14 subsection.

15 “(3) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after re-
16 ceiving a proposal for a grant under this subsection;
17 the Secretary shall review the proposal and deter-
18 mine if the proposal meets the requirements of para-
19 graph (2).

20 “(4) CONCURRENT REVIEW.—An entity seeking
21 a grant under this subsection may submit a proposal
22 under paragraph (2) to the Secretary at any time
23 following the submission of a petition for an emer-
24 gency declaration under subsection (a)(2) that is ap-
25 plicable to coral reefs or ecologically significant com-

1 ponents of coral reefs subject to the responsibilities
2 or jurisdiction of the entity.

3 **~~“SEC. 212. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.~~**

4 ~~“The Administrator, in coordination with the heads~~
5 ~~of other Federal agencies, shall establish and maintain an~~
6 ~~inventory of all vessel grounding incidents involving~~
7 ~~United States coral reefs, including a description of—~~

8 ~~“(1) the impacts of each such incident to coral~~
9 ~~reefs and related natural resources;~~

10 ~~“(2) vessel and ownership information relating~~
11 ~~to each such incident, if available;~~

12 ~~“(3) the estimated cost of removal of the vessel,~~
13 ~~mitigation, or restoration relating to each such inci-~~
14 ~~dent;~~

15 ~~“(4) the response actions taken by the owner of~~
16 ~~the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant of~~
17 ~~the Coast Guard, or representatives of other Federal~~
18 ~~or State agencies;~~

19 ~~“(5) the status of the response actions, includ-~~
20 ~~ing the dates of—~~

21 ~~“(A) vessel removal;~~

22 ~~“(B) mitigation or restoration activities,~~
23 ~~including whether a coral reef emergency plan~~
24 ~~was implemented; and~~

1 “(C) any actions taken to prevent future
2 grounding incidents; and

3 “(6) recommendations for additional naviga-
4 tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing fu-
5 ture grounding incidents.

6 **“SEC. 213. RUTH D. GATES CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**
7 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) GRANTS.—Subject to the availability of appro-
9 priations, the Administrator shall establish a program (to
10 be known as the ‘Ruth D. Gates Coral Reef Conservation
11 Grant Program’) to provide grants for projects for the
12 conservation and restoration of coral reef ecosystems (in
13 this section referred to as ‘coral reef projects’) pursuant
14 to proposals approved by the Administrator in accordance
15 with this section.

16 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An entity described in
18 paragraph (2) may submit to the Administrator a
19 proposal for a coral reef project.

20 “(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity de-
21 scribed in this paragraph is—

22 “(A) a natural resource management au-
23 thority of a State or local government or Tribal
24 organization—

1 “(i) with responsibility for coral reef
2 management; or

3 “(ii) the activities of which directly or
4 indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef
5 ecosystems;

6 “(B) a regional fishery management coun-
7 cil established under the Magnuson-Stevens
8 Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16
9 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

10 “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership
11 seeking to implement a coral reef action plan in
12 effect under section 205;

13 “(D) a coral reef research center des-
14 ignated under section 215(e)(4); or

15 “(E) another nongovernmental organiza-
16 tion or research institution with demonstrated
17 expertise in the conservation or restoration of
18 coral reefs in practice or through significant
19 contributions to the body of existing scientific
20 research on coral reefs.

21 “(e) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—Each proposal for a
22 grant under this section for a coral reef project shall in-
23 clude the following:

24 “(1) The name of the individual or entity re-
25 sponsible for conducting the project.

1 “(2) A description of the qualifications of the
2 individual or entity.

3 “(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of
4 the project.

5 “(4) An estimate of the funds and time re-
6 quired to complete the project.

7 “(5) Evidence of support for the project by ap-
8 propriate representatives of States or other govern-
9 ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-
10 ducted.

11 “(6) Information regarding the source and
12 amount of matching funding available to the appli-
13 cant.

14 “(7) A description of how the project meets one
15 or more of the criteria under subsection (e)(2).

16 “(8) In the case of a proposal submitted by a
17 coral reef stewardship partnership, a description of
18 how the project aligns with the applicable coral reef
19 action plan in effect under section 205.

20 “(9) Any other information the Administrator
21 considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligi-
22 bility of the project for a grant under this sub-
23 section.

24 “(d) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall re-
2 view each coral reef project proposal submitted
3 under this section to determine if the project meets
4 the criteria set forth in subsection (c).

5 “(2) PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION
6 PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the
7 awarding of grants for projects that meet the cri-
8 teria for approval under subparagraphs (A) through
9 (G) of subsection (c)(2) that are proposed to be con-
10 ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef
11 conservation by the Administrator and consistent
12 with the national coral reef resilience strategy in ef-
13 fect under section 204A.

14 “(3) PRIORITIZATION OF RESTORATION
15 PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the
16 awarding of grants for projects that meet the cri-
17 teria for approval under subparagraphs (E) through
18 (L) of subsection (c)(2) that are proposed to be con-
19 ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef
20 restoration by the Administrator and consistent with
21 the national coral reef resilience strategy in effect
22 under section 204A.

23 “(4) REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—
24 Not later than 180 days after receiving a proposal

1 for a coral reef project under this section, the Ad-
2 ministrator shall—

3 “(A) request and consider written com-
4 ments on the proposal from each Federal agen-
5 cy, State government, Tribal organization, or
6 other government jurisdiction, including the rel-
7 evant regional fishery management councils es-
8 tablished under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
9 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
10 1801 et seq.), or any National Marine Sane-
11 tuary or Marine National Monument, with ju-
12 risdiction or management authority over coral
13 reef ecosystems in the area where the project is
14 to be conducted, including the extent to which
15 the project is consistent with locally established
16 priorities, unless such entities were directly in-
17 volved in the development of the project pro-
18 posal;

19 “(B) provide for the merit-based peer re-
20 view of the proposal and require standardized
21 documentation of that peer review;

22 “(C) after considering any written com-
23 ments and recommendations based on the re-
24 views under subparagraphs (A) and (B), ap-
25 prove or disapprove the proposal; and

1 “(D) provide written notification of that
 2 approval or disapproval, with summaries of all
 3 written comments, recommendations, and peer-
 4 reviews, to the entity that submitted the pro-
 5 posal, and each of those States, Tribal organi-
 6 zations, and other government jurisdictions that
 7 provided comments under subparagraph (A).

8 “(e) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Administrator
 9 may not approve a proposal for a coral reef project under
 10 this section unless the project—

11 “(1) is consistent with—

12 “(A) the national coral reef resilience
 13 strategy in effect under section 204A; and

14 “(B) any Federal or non-Federal coral reef
 15 action plans in effect under section 205 cov-
 16 ering a coral reef or ecologically significant
 17 component of a coral reef to be affected by the
 18 project; and

19 “(2) will enhance the conservation and restora-
 20 tion of coral reefs by—

21 “(A) addressing conflicts arising from the
 22 use of environments near coral reefs or from
 23 the use of corals, species associated with coral
 24 reefs, and coral products, including supporting
 25 consensus-driven, community-based planning

1 and management initiatives for the protection
2 of coral reef ecosystems;

3 “(B) improving compliance with laws that
4 prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products
5 or species associated with coral reefs or regulate
6 the use and management of coral reef eco-
7 systems;

8 “(C) designing and implementing networks
9 of real-time water quality monitoring along
10 coral reefs, including data collection related to
11 turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal
12 blooms, and plankton assemblages, with an em-
13 phasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture
14 and urban development;

15 “(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-
16 tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy
17 systems to promote enhanced recreational ac-
18 cess, near coral reefs;

19 “(E) furthering the goals and objectives of
20 coral reef action plans in effect under section
21 205 and coral reef emergency plans in effect
22 under section 209;

23 “(F) mapping the location and distribution
24 of coral reefs and potential coral reef habitat;

1 “(G) stimulating innovation to advance the
2 ability of the United States to understand, re-
3 search, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to
4 develop management or adaptation options to
5 preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef eco-
6 systems;

7 “(H) implementing research to ensure the
8 population viability of listed coral species in
9 United States waters as detailed in the popu-
10 lation-based recovery criteria included in spe-
11 cies-specific recovery plans consistent with the
12 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
13 1531 et seq.);

14 “(I) developing and implementing cost-ef-
15 fective methods to restore degraded coral reef
16 ecosystems or to create geographically appro-
17 priate coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters,
18 including by improving habitat or promoting
19 success of keystone species, with an emphasis
20 on novel restoration strategies and techniques
21 to advance coral reef recovery and growth near
22 population centers threatened by rising sea lev-
23 els and storm surge;

24 “(J) translating and applying coral genet-
25 ics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration;

1 including research related to traits that pro-
 2 mote resilience to increasing ocean tempera-
 3 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral
 4 diseases, and invasive species;

5 “(K) developing and maintaining in situ
 6 native coral propagation sites; or

7 “(L) developing and maintaining ex situ
 8 coral propagation nurseries and land-based
 9 coral gene banks to—

10 “(i) conserve or augment genetic di-
 11 versity of native coral populations;

12 “(ii) support captive breeding of rare
 13 coral species; or

14 “(iii) enhance resilience of native coral
 15 populations to increasing ocean tempera-
 16 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching,
 17 and coral diseases through selective breed-
 18 ing, conditioning, or other approaches that
 19 target genes, gene expression, phenotypic
 20 traits, or phenotypic plasticity.

21 “(f) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent prac-
 22 ticable based upon proposals for coral reef projects sub-
 23 mitted to the Administrator, the Administrator shall en-
 24 sure that funding for grants awarded under this section
 25 during a fiscal year is distributed as follows:

1 “(1) Not less than 40 percent of funds available
2 shall be awarded for projects in the Pacific Ocean
3 within the maritime areas and zones subject to the
4 jurisdiction or control of the United States.

5 “(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds
6 available shall be awarded for projects in the Atlan-
7 tic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea
8 within the maritime areas and zones subject to the
9 jurisdiction or control of the United States.

10 “(3) Not more than 67 percent of funds distrib-
11 uted in each region in accordance with paragraphs
12 (1) and (2) shall be made exclusively available to
13 projects that are—

14 “(A) submitted by a coral reef stewardship
15 partnership; and

16 “(B) consistent with the coral reef action
17 plan in effect under section 205 by such a part-
18 nership.

19 “(4) Of the funds distributed to support
20 projects in accordance with paragraph (3), not less
21 than 20 percent and not more than 33 percent shall
22 be awarded for projects submitted by a Federal coral
23 reef stewardship partnership.

24 “(g) PROJECT REPORTING.—Each entity receiving a
25 grant under this section shall submit to the Administrator

1 such reports at such times and containing such informa-
 2 tion for evaluating project performance as the Adminis-
 3 trator may require.

4 “(h) TASK FORCE.—The Administrator may consult
 5 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to
 6 obtain guidance in establishing priorities and evaluating
 7 proposals for coral reef projects under this section.

8 “(i) UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts avail-
 9 able for grants under this section that are not expended
 10 shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund
 11 under section 208(b).

12 **“SEC. 214. REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
 14 date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act
 15 of 2021, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator
 16 shall submit to the committees specified in subsection (b)
 17 a report on the administration of this title during the 2-
 18 year period preceding submission of the report, includ-
 19 ing—

20 “(1) a description of all activities undertaken to
 21 implement the most recent national coral reef resil-
 22 ience strategy under section 204A;

23 “(2) a statement of all funds obligated under
 24 the authorities of this title; and

1 “(3) a summary, disaggregated by State, of
 2 Federal and non-Federal contributions toward the
 3 costs of each project or activity funded, in full or in
 4 part, under the authorities of this title.

5 “(b) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The committees
 6 specified in this subsection are—

7 “(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
 8 Transportation and the Committee on Appropria-
 9 tions of the Senate; and

10 “(2) the Committee on Natural Resources and
 11 the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
 12 Representatives.

13 **“SEC. 215. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may enter
 15 into and perform such contracts, leases, grants, or cooper-
 16 ative agreements as may be necessary to carry out the
 17 purposes of this title.

18 “(b) FUNDING.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement en-
 20 tered into under subsection (a), the Administrator
 21 may reimburse or provide funds authorized to be ap-
 22 propriated by section 216 to, and may receive funds
 23 or reimbursements from, individuals and entities de-
 24 scribed in paragraph (2) to carry out activities au-
 25 thorized by this title.

1 ~~“(2) INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES DE-~~
 2 ~~SCRIBED.—~~Individuals and entities described in this
 3 paragraph are the following:

4 ~~“(A) Federal agencies, instrumentalities,~~
 5 and laboratories.

6 ~~“(B) State and local governments.~~

7 ~~“(C) Indian Tribes and Tribal organiza-~~
 8 tions.

9 ~~“(D) International organizations.~~

10 ~~“(E) Foreign governments not subject to~~
 11 economic sanctions imposed by the United
 12 States.

13 ~~“(F) Institutions of higher education, re-~~
 14 search centers, and other educational institu-
 15 tions.

16 ~~“(G) Nonprofit organizations.~~

17 ~~“(H) Commercial organizations.~~

18 ~~“(I) Other public or private individuals or~~
 19 entities.

20 ~~“(e) COOPERATIVE INSTITUTES.—~~

21 ~~“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—~~The Secretary shall es-
 22 tablish 2 cooperative institutes for the purpose of
 23 advancing and sustaining essential capabilities in
 24 coral reef research, to be known as the ‘Atlantic

1 Coral Reef Institute’ and the ‘Pacific Coral Reef In-
2 stitute’.

3 ~~“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—~~Each institute established
4 under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single
5 coral reef research center designated by the Admin-
6 istrator under paragraph (4) in the Atlantic and Pa-
7 cific basins, respectively, and may contract with
8 other coral reef research centers within the same
9 basin to support each institute’s capacity and reach.

10 ~~“(3) FUNCTIONS.—~~The institutes established
11 under paragraph (1) shall—

12 ~~“(A) conduct federally directed research to~~
13 fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem
14 research gaps and improve understanding of,
15 and responses to, continuing and emerging
16 threats to the resilience of United States coral
17 reef ecosystems consistent with the national
18 coral reef resilience strategy in effect under sec-
19 tion 204A;

20 ~~“(B) support ecological research and moni-~~
21 toring to study the effects of conservation and
22 restoration activities funded by this title on pro-
23 moting more effective coral reef management
24 and restoration; and

25 ~~“(C) through agreements—~~

1 “(i) collaborate directly with govern-
 2 mental resource management agencies;
 3 coral reef stewardship partnerships, non-
 4 profit organizations, and other coral reef
 5 research centers designated under para-
 6 graph (4);

7 “(ii) assist in the development and im-
 8 plementation of—

9 “(I) the national coral reef resil-
 10 ience strategy under section 204A;

11 “(II) coral reef action plans
 12 under section 205; and

13 “(III) coral reef emergency plans
 14 under section 209;

15 “(iii) build capacity within govern-
 16 mental resource management agencies to
 17 establish research priorities and translate
 18 and apply research findings to manage-
 19 ment and restoration practices; and

20 “(iv) conduct public education and
 21 awareness programs for policymakers, re-
 22 source managers, and the general public
 23 on—

24 “(I) coral reefs and coral reef
 25 ecosystems;

1 “(H) best practices for coral reef
2 ecosystem management and restora-
3 tion;

4 “(III) the value of coral reefs;
5 and

6 “(IV) the threats to the sustain-
7 ability of coral reef ecosystems.

8 “(4) CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTERS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
10 shall periodically solicit applications and des-
11 ignate all qualifying institutions in a covered
12 State as coral reef research centers.

13 “(B) CRITERIA.—An institution qualifies
14 for designation as a coral reef research center
15 under subparagraph (A) if the Administrator
16 determines that the institution—

17 “(i) is operated by an institution of
18 higher education or nonprofit marine re-
19 search organization;

20 “(ii) has established management-
21 driven national or regional coral reef re-
22 search or restoration programs;

23 “(iii) has demonstrated abilities to co-
24 ordinate closely with appropriate Federal

1 and State agencies, as well as other aca-
2 demic and nonprofit organizations; and

3 ~~“(iv) maintains significant local com-~~
4 ~~munity engagement and outreach pro-~~
5 ~~grams related to coral reef ecosystems.~~

6 ~~“(d) MULTIYEAR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The~~
7 ~~Administrator may enter into multiyear cooperative agree-~~
8 ~~ments with the heads of other Federal agencies, States,~~
9 ~~Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, local governments,~~
10 ~~the coral reef cooperative institutes established under sub-~~
11 ~~section (c), and other institutions of higher education,~~
12 ~~nonprofit research organizations, and nongovernmental~~
13 ~~organizations to carry out activities authorized under this~~
14 ~~title.~~

15 ~~“(e) USE OF RESOURCES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—~~
16 ~~The Administrator may use, with consent and with or~~
17 ~~without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, per-~~
18 ~~sonnel, and facilities of any agency or instrumentality of—~~

19 ~~“(1) the United States;~~

20 ~~“(2) any State or local government;~~

21 ~~“(3) any Indian Tribe; or~~

22 ~~“(4) any foreign government not subject to eco-~~
23 ~~nomie sanctions imposed by the United States.~~

1 **“SEC. 216. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

2 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The head of any Federal agency
3 with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task
4 Force established by Executive Order 13089 (16 U.S.C.
5 6401 note; relating to coral reef protection), may, individ-
6 ually or in cooperation with one or more agencies, carry
7 out a program to award prizes competitively under section
8 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of
9 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

10 “(b) **PURPOSES.**—Any program carried out under
11 this section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innova-
12 tion to advance the ability of the United States to under-
13 stand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to
14 develop management or adaptation options to preserve,
15 sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

16 “(c) **PRIORITY PROGRAMS.**—Priority shall be given to
17 establishing programs under this section that address
18 communities, environments, or industries that are in dis-
19 tress as a result of the decline or degradation of coral reef
20 ecosystems, including—

21 “(1) scientific research and monitoring that
22 furthers the understanding of causes behind coral
23 reef decline and degradation and the generally slow
24 recovery following disturbances, including ocean
25 acidification and its impacts on coral reproduction;

1 “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-
 2 ment options for communities or industries that are
 3 experiencing significant financial hardship;

4 “(3) the development of adaptation options to
 5 alleviate economic harm and job loss caused by dam-
 6 age to coral reef ecosystems;

7 “(4) the development of measures to help vul-
 8 nerable communities or industries, with an emphasis
 9 on rural communities and businesses; and

10 “(5) the development of adaptation and man-
 11 agement options for impacted tourism industries.

12 **“SEC. 217. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
 14 propriated to the Secretary to carry out this title the fol-
 15 lowing amounts, which shall remain available until ex-
 16 pend:

17 “(1) \$31,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

18 “(2) \$32,500,000 for fiscal year 2022.

19 “(3) \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

20 “(4) \$35,500,000 for fiscal year 2024.

21 “(5) \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

22 “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the amounts appro-
 23 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
 24 under subsection (a), not more than the lesser of
 25 \$1,500,000 or 10 percent may be used for program ad-

1 ministration or for overhead costs incurred by the Na-
 2 tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the De-
 3 partment of Commerce and assessed as an administrative
 4 charge.

5 “(e) CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION
 6 ACTIVITIES.—From the amounts authorized to be appro-
 7 priated under subsection (a), there shall be made available
 8 to the Secretary not less than the following amounts for
 9 authorized activities under sections 203 and 207:

10 “(1) \$23,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, of which
 11 not less than \$8,000,000 shall be made available to
 12 the Secretary for the provision State block grants
 13 under section 207.

14 “(2) \$24,500,000 for fiscal year 2022, of which
 15 not less than \$8,500,000 shall be made available to
 16 the Secretary for the provision State block grants
 17 under section 207.

18 “(3) \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, of which
 19 not less than \$9,000,000 shall be made available to
 20 the Secretary for the provision State block grants
 21 under section 207.

22 “(4) \$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2024, of which
 23 not less than \$10,000,000 shall be made available to
 24 the Secretary for the provision State block grants
 25 under section 207.

1 ~~“(5) \$29,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, of which~~
 2 ~~not less than \$11,000,000 shall be made available to~~
 3 ~~the Secretary for the provision State block grants~~
 4 ~~under section 207.~~

5 ~~“(d) FEDERALLY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND CORAL~~
 6 ~~REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM GRANTS.—From the~~
 7 ~~amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection~~
 8 ~~(a), there shall be made available to the Secretary not less~~
 9 ~~than \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through~~
 10 ~~2025 to support purposes consistent with this title, of~~
 11 ~~which—~~

12 ~~“(1) not less than \$3,500,000 shall be made~~
 13 ~~available for each such fiscal year for authorized ac-~~
 14 ~~tivities under section 213; and~~

15 ~~“(2) not less than \$4,500,000 shall be made~~
 16 ~~available for each such fiscal year through coopera-~~
 17 ~~tive agreements with the cooperative institutes estab-~~
 18 ~~lished under section 215(c).~~

19 **~~“SEC. 218. DEFINITIONS.~~**

20 ~~“In this title:~~

21 ~~“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-~~
 22 ~~trator’ means the Administrator of the National~~
 23 ~~Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.~~

24 ~~“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-~~
 25 ~~TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-~~

1 mittees’ means the Committee on Commerce,
 2 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
 3 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of
 4 Representatives.

5 “(3) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’
 6 means the use of methods and procedures necessary
 7 to preserve or sustain native corals and associated
 8 species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral
 9 reef ecosystems with minimal impacts from invasive
 10 species, including—

11 “(A) all activities associated with resource
 12 management, such as monitoring, assessment,
 13 protection, restoration, sustainable use, man-
 14 agement of habitat, and maintenance or aug-
 15 mentation of genetic diversity;

16 “(B) mapping;

17 “(C) scientific expertise and technical as-
 18 sistance in the development and implementation
 19 of management strategies for marine protected
 20 areas and marine resources consistent with the
 21 National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C.
 22 1431 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fish-
 23 ery Conservation and Management Act (16
 24 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

25 “(D) law enforcement;

1 “(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

2 “(F) community outreach and education;

3 and

4 “(G) promotion of safe and ecologically
5 sound navigation and anchoring.

6 “(4) CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species
7 of the phylum Cnidaria, including—

8 “(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia
9 (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),
10 Acyonacea (soft corals, organ pipe corals,
11 gorgonians), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of
12 the class Anthozoa; and

13 “(B) all species of the order Anthoathecata
14 (fire corals and other hydrocorals) of the class
15 Hydrozoa.

16 “(5) CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’
17 means limestone structures in the form of a reef or
18 shoal, composed in whole or in part by living coral,
19 skeletal remains of coral, crustose coralline algae,
20 and other associated sessile marine plants and ani-
21 mals.

22 “(6) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term
23 ‘coral reef ecosystem’ means—

24 “(A) corals and other geographically and
25 ecologically associated marine communities of

1 other reef organisms (including reef plants and
2 animals) associated with coral reef habitat; and

3 “(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and
4 processes that control coral calcification rates;
5 tissue growth, reproduction, recruitment, abun-
6 dance, coral-algal symbiosis, and biodiversity in
7 such habitat.

8 “(7) CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral prod-
9 ucts’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or
10 derivatives, or any product containing specimens,
11 parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in
12 paragraph (4).

13 “(8) COVERED REEF MANAGER.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered
15 reef manager’ means a management unit of a
16 Federal agency specified in subparagraph (B)
17 with jurisdiction over a coral reef ecosystem;
18 covered State, or coral reef stewardship part-
19 nership.

20 “(B) FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—A
21 Federal agency specified in this subparagraph
22 is one of the following:

23 “(i) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
24 pheric Administration.

25 “(ii) The National Park Service.

1 “(iii) The United States Fish and
2 Wildlife Service.

3 “(iv) The Office of Insular Affairs.

4 “(9) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered
5 State’ means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of
6 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
7 ern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the
8 United States Virgin Islands.

9 “(10) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’
10 has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the
11 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
12 Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

13 “(11) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
14 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
15 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-
16 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

17 “(12) INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.—
18 The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ includes
19 community members such as businesses, commercial
20 and recreational fishermen, other recreationalists,
21 Federal, State, Tribal, and local government units
22 with related jurisdiction, institutions of higher edu-
23 cation, and nongovernmental organizations.

24 “(13) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
25 ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organization that

1 is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Rev-
 2 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under sec-
 3 tion 501(a) of such Code.

4 “(14) RESTORATION.—The term ‘restoration’
 5 means the use of methods and procedures necessary
 6 to enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a func-
 7 tioning coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole
 8 or in part, within suitable waters of the historical
 9 geographic range of such ecosystems, to provide eco-
 10 logical, economic, cultural, or coastal resiliency serv-
 11 ices associated with healthy coral reefs and benefit
 12 native populations of coral reef organisms.

13 “(15) RESILIENCE.—The term ‘resilience’
 14 means the capacity for corals within their native
 15 range, coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems to recover
 16 from natural and human disturbances as determined
 17 by clearly identifiable, measurable, and science-based
 18 standards.

19 “(16) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’
 20 means the Secretary of Commerce.

21 “(17) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

22 “(A) any State of the United States that
 23 contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-
 24 ward boundaries;

1 ~~“(B) American Samoa, the Commonwealth~~
 2 ~~of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto~~
 3 ~~Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands; or~~

4 ~~“(C) any other territory or possession of~~
 5 ~~the United States or separate sovereign in free~~
 6 ~~association with the United States that contains~~
 7 ~~a coral reef ecosystem within its seaward~~
 8 ~~boundaries.~~

9 ~~“(18) STEWARDSHIP.—The term ‘stewardship’,~~
 10 ~~with respect to a coral reef, includes conservation,~~
 11 ~~restoration, and public outreach and education.~~

12 ~~“(19) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘Task Force’~~
 13 ~~means the United States Coral Reef Task Force es-~~
 14 ~~tablished under section 201 of the Restoring Resil-~~
 15 ~~ient Reefs Act of 2021.~~

16 ~~“(20) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Trib-~~
 17 ~~al organization’ has the meaning given the term~~
 18 ~~‘tribal organization’ in section 3765 of title 38,~~
 19 ~~United States Code.”.~~

20 ~~(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL~~
 21 ~~OCEANS AND COASTAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 905(a)~~
 22 ~~of the National Oceans and Coastal Security Act (16~~
 23 ~~U.S.C. 7504(a)) is amended by striking “and coastal in-~~
 24 ~~frastructure” and inserting “, coastal infrastructure, and~~

1 ecosystem services provided by natural systems such as
 2 coral reefs”.

3 **SEC. 102. MODIFICATION TO SECTION 204 OF THE CORAL**
 4 **REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000 (16 U.S.C.**
 5 **6403).**

6 Section 204 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of
 7 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6403) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “this section”
 9 and inserting “section 213”;

10 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
 11 following:

12 “(3) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of para-
 13 graph (1), block grant funds awarded to the terri-
 14 tories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the
 15 Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, or
 16 the United States Virgin Islands under section 207
 17 shall qualify as the non-Federal share of project
 18 costs.”; and

19 (3) by striking subsections (c) through (j).

20 **TITLE II—UNITED STATES**
 21 **CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

22 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.**

23 There is established a task force to lead, coordinate,
 24 and strengthen Federal Government actions to better pre-
 25 serve, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems, to be

1 known as the “United States Coral Reef Task Force” (in
 2 this title referred to as the “Task Force”).

3 **SEC. 202. DUTIES.**

4 The duties of the Task Force shall be—

5 (1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State,
 6 Tribal, and local government partners, coral reef re-
 7 search centers designated under section 215(c) of
 8 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (as amend-
 9 ed by section 101), and other nongovernmental and
 10 academic partners as appropriate, activities regard-
 11 ing the mapping, monitoring, research, conservation,
 12 mitigation, and restoration of coral reefs and coral
 13 reef ecosystems;

14 (2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-
 15 tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-
 16 ities set forth in—

17 (A) Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.
 18 32701; relating to coral reef protection); and

19 (B) the national coral reef resilience strat-
 20 egy developed under section 204A of the Coral
 21 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by
 22 section 101;

23 (3) to work with the Secretary of State and the
 24 Administrator of the United States Agency for

1 International Development, and in coordination with
2 the other members of the Task Force—

3 (A) to assess the United States role in
4 international trade and protection of coral spe-
5 cies;

6 (B) to encourage implementation of appro-
7 priate strategies and actions to promote con-
8 servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-
9 sources worldwide; and

10 (C) to collaborate with international com-
11 munities successful in managing coral reefs;

12 (4) to provide technical assistance for the devel-
13 opment and implementation, as appropriate, of—

14 (A) the national coral reef resilience strat-
15 egy under section 204A of the Coral Reef Con-
16 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section
17 101;

18 (B) coral reef action plans under section
19 205 of that Act; and

20 (C) coral reef emergency plans under sec-
21 tion 209 of that Act; and

22 (5) to produce a report each year, for submis-
23 sion to the appropriate congressional committees
24 and publication on a publicly available internet
25 website of the Task Force, highlighting the status of

1 the coral reef equities of a covered State on a rotat-
 2 ing basis, including—

3 (A) a summary of recent coral reef man-
 4 agement and restoration activities undertaken
 5 in that State; and

6 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-
 7 direct economic activity supported by, and other
 8 benefits associated with, those coral reef equi-
 9 ties.

10 **SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.**

11 (a) VOTING MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall
 12 have the following voting members:

13 (1) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through
 14 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
 15 mospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the
 16 Interior, who shall be co-chairs of the Task Force.

17 (2) The Administrator of the United States
 18 Agency for International Development.

19 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

20 (4) The Secretary of Defense.

21 (5) The Secretary of the Army, acting through
 22 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

23 (6) The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting
 24 through the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
 25 gency Management Agency.

1 ~~(7) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.~~

2 ~~(8) The Attorney General.~~

3 ~~(9) The Secretary of State.~~

4 ~~(10) The Secretary of Transportation.~~

5 ~~(11) The Administrator of the Environmental~~
6 ~~Protection Agency.~~

7 ~~(12) The Administrator of the National Aero-~~
8 ~~nautics and Space Administration.~~

9 ~~(13) The Director of the National Science~~
10 ~~Foundation.~~

11 ~~(14) The Governor, or a representative of the~~
12 ~~Governor, of each covered State.~~

13 ~~(b) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall~~
14 ~~have the following nonvoting members:~~

15 ~~(1) A member of the South Atlantic Fishery~~
16 ~~Management Council who is designated by the Gov-~~
17 ~~ernor of Florida under section 302(b)(1) of the Mag-~~
18 ~~nuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Manage-~~
19 ~~ment Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(1)).~~

20 ~~(2) A member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery~~
21 ~~Management Council who is designated by the Gov-~~
22 ~~ernor of Florida under such section.~~

23 ~~(3) A member of the Western Pacific Fishery~~
24 ~~Management Council who is designated under such~~
25 ~~section and selected as follows:~~

1 (A) For the period beginning on the date
2 of the enactment of this Act and ending on De-
3 cember 31 of the calendar year during which
4 such date of enactment occurs, the member
5 shall be selected jointly by the governors of Ha-
6 waii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Com-
7 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

8 (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the
9 governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam,
10 and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
11 iana Islands shall, on a rotating basis, take
12 turns selecting the member.

13 (4) A member of the Caribbean Fishery Man-
14 agement Council who is designated under such sec-
15 tion and selected as follows:

16 (A) For the period beginning on the date
17 of the enactment of this Act and ending on De-
18 cember 31 of the calendar year during which
19 such date of enactment occurs, the member
20 shall be selected jointly by the governors of
21 Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Is-
22 lands.

23 (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the
24 governors of Puerto Rico and the United States

1 Virgin Islands shall, on an alternating basis,
2 take turns selecting the member.

3 ~~(5) A member appointed by the President of~~
4 ~~the Federated States of Micronesia.~~

5 ~~(6) A member appointed by the President of~~
6 ~~the Republic of the Marshall Islands.~~

7 ~~(7) A member appointed by the President of~~
8 ~~the Republic of Palau.~~

9 **SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-**
10 **BERS.**

11 ~~(a) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force~~
12 ~~specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a)~~
13 ~~shall—~~

14 ~~(1) identify the actions of the agency that mem-~~
15 ~~ber represents that may affect coral reef ecosystems;~~

16 ~~(2) utilize the programs and authorities of that~~
17 ~~agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such~~
18 ~~ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic~~
19 ~~and applied scientific research;~~

20 ~~(3) collaborate with the Task Force to appro-~~
21 ~~priately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef con-~~
22 ~~servation and restoration activities in all agency~~
23 ~~budget planning and justification documents and~~
24 ~~processes; and~~

1 (4) engage in any other coordinated efforts ap-
 2 proved by the Task Force.

3 (b) ~~CO-CHAIRS.~~—In addition to their responsibilities
 4 under subsection (a), the co-chairs of the Task Force shall
 5 administer performance of the functions of the Task Force
 6 and facilitate the coordination of the members of the Task
 7 Force specified in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section
 8 203(a).

9 **SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.**

10 (a) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—The co-chairs of the Task Force
 11 may establish working groups as necessary to meet the
 12 goals and carry out the duties of the Task Force.

13 (b) ~~REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS.~~—The members of
 14 the Task Force may request that the co-chairs establish
 15 a working group under subsection (a).

16 (c) ~~PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANI-~~
 17 ~~ZATIONS.~~—The co-chairs may allow nongovernmental or-
 18 ganizations as appropriate, including academic institu-
 19 tions, conservation groups, and commercial and rec-
 20 reational fishing associations, to participate in a working
 21 group established under subsection (a).

22 (d) ~~NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY~~
 23 ~~COMMITTEE ACT.~~—The Federal Advisory Committee Act
 24 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups estab-
 25 lished under this section.

1 **SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this title:

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
 4 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 5 **mittees”** means the Committee on Commerce,

6 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the

7 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of

8 Representatives.

9 (2) **CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF,**
 10 **ETC.**—The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral

11 reef”, “coral reef ecosystem”, “covered State”, “res-

12 toration”, “resilience”, and “State” have the mean-

13 ing given those terms in section 218 of the Coral

14 Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by sec-

15 tion 101.

16 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE**

17 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**

18 **THORITIES**

19 **SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**

20 **ASSISTANCE.**

21 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Interior may

22 provide scientific expertise and technical assistance, and

23 subject to the availability of appropriations, financial as-

24 sistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs

25 consistent with all applicable laws governing resource

1 management in Federal, State, and Tribal waters, includ-
 2 ing—

3 (1) the national coral reef resilience strategy in
 4 effect under section 204A of the Coral Reef Con-
 5 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101;

6 (2) coral reef action plans in effect under sec-
 7 tion 205 of that Act, as applicable; and

8 (3) coral reef emergency plans in effect under
 9 section 209 of that Act, as applicable.

10 (b) OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS CORAL REEF INI-
 11 TIATIVE.—The Secretary may establish within the Office
 12 of Insular Affairs a Coral Reef Initiative Program—

13 (1) to provide grant funding to support local
 14 management, conservation, and protection of coral
 15 reef ecosystems in—

16 (A) insular areas of covered States; and

17 (B) Freely Associated States;

18 (2) to complement the other conservation and
 19 assistance activities conducted under this Act; and

20 (3) to provide other technical, scientific, and fi-
 21 nancial assistance and conduct conservation activi-
 22 ties that advance the purpose of this Act.

23 (c) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
 24 COMMERCE.—The Secretary of the Interior may consult
 25 with the Secretary of Commerce regarding the conduct of

1 any activities to conserve and restore coral reefs and coral
 2 reef ecosystems in waters managed under the jurisdiction
 3 of the Federal agencies specified in paragraphs (2) and
 4 (3) of section 203(c) of the Coral Reef Conservation Act
 5 of 2000, as amended by section 101.

6 (d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Subject to the
 7 availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior
 8 may enter into cooperative agreements with covered reef
 9 managers to fund coral reef conservation and restoration
 10 activities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such
 11 managers that—

12 (1) are consistent with the national coral reef
 13 resilience strategy in effect under section 204A of
 14 the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amend-
 15 ed by section 101; and

16 (2) support and enhance the success of—

17 (A) coral reef action plans in effect under
 18 section 205 of that Act; and

19 (B) coral reef emergency plans in effect
 20 under section 209 of that Act.

21 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “con-
 22 servation”, “coral reef”, “covered reef manager”, “covered
 23 State”, “restoration”, and “State” have the meaning
 24 given those terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Con-
 25 servation Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.

1 **TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS**
 2 **NATIONAL CORAL REEF MAN-**
 3 **AGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

4 **SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This title may be cited as the “Susan L. Williams
 6 National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Act of
 7 2021”.

8 **SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this title:

10 (1) **FELLOW.**—The term “fellow” means a Na-
 11 tional Coral Reef Management Fellow.

12 (2) **FELLOWSHIP.**—The term “fellowship”
 13 means the National Coral Reef Management Fellow-
 14 ship established in section 403.

15 (3) **INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—
 16 The terms “Indian Tribe” and “Tribal organiza-
 17 tion” have the meanings given those terms in section
 18 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education
 19 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

20 (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
 21 the Secretary of Commerce.

22 **SEC. 403. ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

23 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established a National
 24 Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.

1 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the fellowship
2 are—

3 (1) to encourage future leaders of the United
4 States to develop additional coral reef management
5 capacity in States and local communities with coral
6 reefs;

7 (2) to provide management agencies of States;
8 Tribal organizations, and Freely Associated States
9 with highly qualified candidates whose education and
10 work experience meet the specific needs of each
11 State, Indian Tribe, and Freely Associated State;
12 and

13 (3) to provide fellows with professional experi-
14 ence in management of coastal and coral reef re-
15 sources.

16 **SEC. 404. FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award the fel-
18 lowship in accordance with this section.

19 (b) TERM OF FELLOWSHIP.—A fellowship awarded
20 under this section shall be for a term of not more than
21 24 months.

22 (c) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Secretary shall award the
23 fellowship to individuals who have demonstrated—

24 (1) an intent to pursue a career in marine serv-
25 ices and outstanding potential for such a career;

1 (2) leadership potential; actual leadership expe-
2 rience; or both;

3 (3) a college or graduate degree in biological
4 science; experience that correlates with aptitude and
5 interest for marine management; or both;

6 (4) proficient writing and speaking skills; and

7 (5) such other attributes as the Secretary con-
8 siders appropriate.

9 **SEC. 405. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection
11 (b), the non-Federal share of the costs of a fellowship
12 under this section shall be 25 percent of such costs.

13 (b) **WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary
14 may waive the application of subsection (a) if the Sec-
15 retary finds that such waiver is necessary to support a
16 project that the Secretary has identified as a high priority.

17 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

18 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—*This Act may be cited as the “Re-*
19 *storing Resilient Reefs Act of 2021”.*

20 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—*The table of contents for*
21 *this Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

*TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT
OF 2000*

Sec. 101. Reauthorization of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

Sec. 201. Establishment.

Sec. 202. Duties.

Sec. 203. Membership.

Sec. 204. Responsibilities of Federal agency members.

Sec. 205. Working groups.

Sec. 206. Definitions.

**TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF
AUTHORITIES**

Sec. 301. Coral reef conservation and restoration assistance.

**TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS NATIONAL CORAL REEF
MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Definitions.

Sec. 403. Establishment of fellowship program.

Sec. 404. Fellowship awards.

Sec. 405. Matching requirement.

**1 TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF
2 CORAL REEF CONSERVATION
3 ACT OF 2000**

**4 SEC. 101. REAUTHORIZATION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVA-
5 TION ACT OF 2000.**

*6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Coral Reef Conservation Act
7 of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended—*

*8 (1) by redesignating sections 209 and 210 as sec-
9 tions 217 and 218, respectively;*

*10 (2) by striking sections 202 through 208 and in-
11 serting the following:*

12 “SEC. 202. PURPOSES.

13 “The purposes of this title are—

*14 “(1) to conserve and restore the condition of
15 United States coral reef ecosystems challenged by nat-
16 ural and human-accelerated changes, including in-
17 creasing ocean temperatures, ocean acidification,*

1 coral bleaching, coral diseases, water quality degrada-
2 tion, invasive species, and illegal, unreported, and
3 unregulated fishing;

4 “(2) to promote the science-based management
5 and sustainable use of coral reef ecosystems to benefit
6 local communities and the Nation, including through
7 improved integration and cooperation among Federal
8 and non-Federal stakeholders with coral reef equities;

9 “(3) to develop sound scientific information on
10 the condition of coral reef ecosystems, continuing and
11 emerging threats to such ecosystems, and the efficacy
12 of innovative tools, technologies, and strategies to
13 mitigate stressors and restore such ecosystems, includ-
14 ing evaluation criteria to determine the effectiveness
15 of management interventions, and accurate mapping
16 for coral reef restoration;

17 “(4) to assist in the preservation of coral reefs by
18 supporting science-based, consensus-driven, and com-
19 munity-based coral reef management by covered
20 States and covered Native entities, including moni-
21 toring, conservation, and restoration projects that em-
22 power local communities, small businesses, and non-
23 governmental organizations;

24 “(5) to provide financial resources, technical as-
25 sistance, and scientific expertise to supplement, com-

“(7) to support the rapid and effective, science-based assessment and response to exigent circumstances that pose immediate and long-term threats to coral reefs, such as coral disease, invasive or nuisance species, coral bleaching, natural disasters, and industrial or mechanical disasters, such as vessel groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal construction accidents; and

19 “SEC. 203. *FEDERAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND RES-*
20 *TORATION ACTIVITIES.*”

•S 46 RS

1 “(1) all applicable laws governing resource man-
 2 agement in Federal and State waters, including this
 3 Act;

4 “(2) the national coral reef resilience strategy in
 5 effect under section 204; and

6 “(3) coral reef action plans in effect under sec-
 7 tion 205, as applicable.

8 “(b) *ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.*—Activities described in
 9 this subsection are activities to conserve, research, monitor,
 10 assess, and restore coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems in
 11 waters managed under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency
 12 specified in subsection (c) or in coordination with a State
 13 in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such State, in-
 14 cluding—

15 “(1) developing, including through the collection
 16 of requisite in situ and remotely sensed data, high-
 17 quality and digitized maps reflecting—

18 “(A) current and historical live coral cover
 19 data;

20 “(B) coral reef habitat quality data;

21 “(C) priority areas for coral reef conserva-
 22 tion to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem
 23 structure and function, including the reef ma-
 24 trix, that benefit coastal communities and living
 25 marine resources;

1 “(D) priority areas for coral reef restora-
 2 tion to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem struc-
 3 ture and function, including the reef matrix, to
 4 benefit coastal communities and living marine
 5 resources; and

6 “(E) areas of concern that may require en-
 7 hanced monitoring of coral health and cover;

8 “(2) enhancing compliance with Federal laws
 9 that prohibit or regulate—

10 “(A) the taking of coral products or species
 11 associated with coral reefs; or

12 “(B) the use and management of coral reef
 13 ecosystems;

14 “(3) long-term ecological monitoring of coral reef
 15 ecosystems;

16 “(4) implementing species-specific recovery plans
 17 for listed coral species consistent with the Endangered
 18 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

19 “(5) restoring degraded coral reef ecosystems;

20 “(6) promoting ecologically sound navigation
 21 and anchorages, including through navigational aids
 22 and expansion of reef-safe anchorages and mooring
 23 buoy systems, to enhance recreational access while
 24 preventing or minimizing the likelihood of vessel im-
 25 pacts or other physical damage to coral reefs;

1 “(7) monitoring and responding to severe bleach-
 2 ing or mortality events, disease outbreaks, invasive
 3 species outbreaks, and significant maritime accidents,
 4 including chemical spill cleanup and the removal of
 5 grounded vessels;

6 “(8) conducting scientific research that contrib-
 7 utes to the understanding, sustainable use, and long-
 8 term conservation of coral reefs;

9 “(9) enhancing public awareness, understanding,
 10 and appreciation of coral reefs and coral reef eco-
 11 systems; and

12 “(10) centrally archiving, managing, and dis-
 13 tributing data sets and coral reef ecosystem assess-
 14 ments and publishing such information on publicly
 15 available internet websites, by means such as
 16 leveraging and partnering with existing data reposi-
 17 tories, of—

18 “(A) the Coral Reef Conservation Program
 19 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
 20 ministration; and

21 “(B) the Task Force.

22 “(c) *FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED*.—A Federal
 23 agency specified in this subsection is one of the following:

24 “(1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
 25 ministration.

1 “(2) *The National Park Service.*

2 “(3) *The United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-*
3 *ice.*

4 “(4) *The Office of Insular Affairs.*

5 **“SEC. 204. NATIONAL CORAL REEF RESILIENCE STRATEGY.**

6 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—*

7 “(1) *not later than 2 years after the date of the*
8 *enactment of the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of*
9 *2021, develop a national coral reef resilience strategy;*
10 *and*

11 “(2) *periodically thereafter, but not less fre-*
12 *quently than once every 15 years (and not less fre-*
13 *quently than once every 5 years, in the case of guid-*
14 *ance on best practices under subsection (b)(4)), review*
15 *and revise the strategy as appropriate.*

16 “(b) *ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection*
17 *(a) shall include the following:*

18 “(1) *A discussion addressing—*

19 “(A) *continuing and emerging threats to the*
20 *resilience of United States coral reef ecosystems;*

21 “(B) *remaining gaps in coral reef ecosystem*
22 *research, monitoring, and assessment;*

23 “(C) *the status of management cooperation*
24 *and integration among Federal reef managers*
25 *and covered reef managers;*

1 “(D) the status of efforts to manage and
 2 disseminate critical information, and enhance
 3 interjurisdictional data sharing, related to re-
 4 search, reports, datasets, and maps;

5 “(E) areas of special focus, which may in-
 6 clude—

7 “(i) improving natural coral recruit-
 8 ment;

9 “(ii) preventing avoidable losses of cor-
 10 als and their habitat;

11 “(iii) enhancing the resilience of coral
 12 populations;

13 “(iv) supporting a resilience-based
 14 management approach;

15 “(v) developing, coordinating, and im-
 16 plementing watershed management plans;

17 “(vi) building and sustaining water-
 18 shed management capacity at the local level;

19 “(vii) providing data essential for
 20 coral reef fisheries management;

21 “(viii) building capacity for coral reef
 22 fisheries management;

23 “(ix) increasing understanding of coral
 24 reef ecosystem services;

1 “(x) educating the public on the im-
 2 portance of coral reefs, threats and solu-
 3 tions; and

4 “(xi) evaluating intervention efficacy;

5 “(F) the status of conservation efforts, in-
 6 cluding the use of marine protected areas to serve
 7 as replenishment zones developed consistent with
 8 local practices and traditions and in cooperation
 9 with, and with respect for the scientific, tech-
 10 nical, and management expertise and respon-
 11 sibilities of, covered reef managers;

12 “(G) science-based adaptive management
 13 and restoration efforts; and

14 “(H) management of coral reef emergencies
 15 and disasters.

16 “(2) A statement of national goals and objectives
 17 designed to guide—

18 “(A) future Federal coral reef management
 19 and restoration activities authorized under sec-
 20 tion 203;

21 “(B) conservation and restoration priorities
 22 for grants awarded under section 213 and coop-
 23 erative agreements under section 208; and

1 “(C) research priorities for the reef research
 2 coordination institutes designated under section
 3 214.

4 “(3) A designation of priority areas for con-
 5 servation, and priority areas for restoration, to sup-
 6 port the review and approval of grants under section
 7 213(e).

8 “(4) General templates for use by covered reef
 9 managers and Federal reef managers to guide the de-
 10 velopment of coral reef action plans under section
 11 205, including guidance on the best science-based
 12 practices to respond to coral reef emergencies that can
 13 be included in coral reef action plans.

14 “(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In developing all elements of
 15 the strategy required by subsection (a), the Administrator
 16 shall—

17 “(1) consult with the Secretary of the Interior,
 18 the Task Force, covered States, and covered Native en-
 19 tities;

20 “(2) engage stakeholders, including covered
 21 States, coral reef stewardship partnerships, reef re-
 22 search coordination institutes and research centers
 23 designated under section 214, and recipients of grants
 24 under section 213; and

1 “(3) *solicit public review and comment regard-*
2 *ing scoping and the draft strategy.*

3 “(d) *SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—The*
4 *Administrator shall—*

5 “(1) *submit the strategy required by subsection*
6 *(a) and any revisions to the strategy to the appro-*
7 *priate congressional committees; and*

8 “(2) *publish the strategy and any such revisions*
9 *on publicly available internet websites of—*

10 “(A) *the Coral Reef Conservation Program*
11 *of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*
12 *ministration; and*

13 “(B) *the Task Force.*

14 **“SEC. 205. CORAL REEF ACTION PLANS.**

15 “(a) *PLANS PREPARED BY FEDERAL REEF MAN-*
16 *AGERS.—*

17 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after*
18 *the date of the enactment of the Restoring Resilient*
19 *Reefs Act of 2021, each Federal reef manager shall—*

20 “(A) *prepare a coral reef action plan to*
21 *guide management and restoration activities to*
22 *be undertaken within the responsibilities and ju-*
23 *risdiction of the manager; or*

24 “(B) *in the case of a reef under the jurisdic-*
25 *tion of a Federal reef manager for which there*

1 *is a management plan in effect as of such date*
2 *of enactment, update that plan to comply with*
3 *the requirements of this subsection.*

4 “(2) *ELEMENTS.—A plan prepared under para-*
5 *graph (1) by a Federal reef manager shall include a*
6 *discussion of the following:*

7 “(A) *Short- and mid-term coral reef con-*
8 *servation and restoration objectives within the*
9 *jurisdiction of the manager.*

10 “(B) *A current adaptive management*
11 *framework to inform research, monitoring, and*
12 *assessment needs.*

13 “(C) *Tools, strategies, and partnerships nec-*
14 *essary to identify, monitor, and address pollu-*
15 *tion and water quality impacts to coral reef eco-*
16 *systems within the jurisdiction of the manager.*

17 “(D) *The status of efforts to improve coral*
18 *reef ecosystem management cooperation and inte-*
19 *gration between Federal reef managers and cov-*
20 *ered reef managers, including the identification*
21 *of existing research and monitoring activities*
22 *that can be leveraged for coral reef status and*
23 *trends assessments within the jurisdiction of the*
24 *manager.*

1 “(E) *Estimated budgetary and resource con-*
 2 *siderations necessary to carry out the plan.*

3 “(F) *Contingencies for response to and re-*
 4 *covery from emergencies and disasters.*

5 “(G) *In the case of an updated plan, an-*
 6 *ual records of significant management and res-*
 7 *toration actions taken under the previous plan,*
 8 *cash and non-cash resources used to undertake*
 9 *the actions, and the source of such resources.*

10 “(H) *Documentation by the Federal reef*
 11 *manager that the plan is consistent with the na-*
 12 *tional coral reef resilience strategy in effect*
 13 *under section 204.*

14 “(I) *A data management plan to ensure*
 15 *data, assessments, and accompanying informa-*
 16 *tion are appropriately preserved, curated, pub-*
 17 *licly accessible, and broadly reusable.*

18 “(3) *SUBMISSION TO TASK FORCE.—Each Fed-*
 19 *eral reef manager shall submit a plan prepared under*
 20 *paragraph (1) to the Task Force.*

21 “(4) *APPLICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCE-*
 22 *DURE ACT.—Each plan prepared under paragraph*
 23 *(1) shall be subject to the requirements of subchapter*
 24 *II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United*

1 *States Code (commonly known as the ‘Administrative*
 2 *Procedure Act’).*

3 “(b) *PLANS PREPARED BY COVERED REEF MAN-*
 4 *AGERS.—*

5 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—A covered reef manager may*
 6 *elect to prepare, submit to the Task Force, and main-*
 7 *tain a coral reef action plan to guide management*
 8 *and restoration activities to be undertaken within the*
 9 *responsibilities and jurisdiction of the manager.*

10 “(2) *EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—A plan prepared*
 11 *under this subsection shall remain in effect for 5*
 12 *years, or until an updated plan is submitted to the*
 13 *Task Force, whichever occurs first.*

14 “(3) *ELEMENTS.—A plan prepared under para-*
 15 *graph (1) by a covered reef manager—*

16 “(A) *shall contain a discussion of—*

17 “(i) *short- and mid-term coral reef*
 18 *conservation and restoration objectives with-*
 19 *in the jurisdiction of the manager;*

20 “(ii) *estimated budgetary and resource*
 21 *considerations necessary to carry out the*
 22 *plan;*

23 “(iii) *in the case of an updated plan,*
 24 *annual records of significant management*
 25 *and restoration actions taken under the pre-*

1 *vious plan, cash and non-cash resources*
 2 *used to undertake the actions, and the*
 3 *source of such resources; and*

4 *“(iv) contingencies for response to and*
 5 *recovery from emergencies and disasters;*
 6 *and*

7 *“(B) may contain a discussion of—*

8 *“(i) the status of efforts to improve*
 9 *coral reef ecosystem management coopera-*
 10 *tion and integration between Federal reef*
 11 *managers and covered reef managers, in-*
 12 *cluding the identification of existing re-*
 13 *search and monitoring activities that can be*
 14 *leveraged for coral reef status and trends as-*
 15 *sessments within the jurisdiction of the*
 16 *manager;*

17 *“(ii) a current adaptive management*
 18 *framework to inform research, monitoring,*
 19 *and assessment needs;*

20 *“(iii) tools, strategies, and partner-*
 21 *ships necessary to identify, monitor, and*
 22 *address pollution and water quality im-*
 23 *pacts to coral reef ecosystems within the ju-*
 24 *risdiction of the manager; and*

1 “(iv) a data management plan to en-
 2 sure data, assessments, and accompanying
 3 information are appropriately preserved,
 4 curated, publicly accessible, and broadly re-
 5 usable..

6 “(c) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—*The Administrator*
 7 *and the Task Force shall make all reasonable efforts to pro-*
 8 *vide technical assistance upon request by a Federal reef*
 9 *manager or covered reef manager developing a coral reef*
 10 *action plan under this section.*

11 “(d) *PUBLICATION.*—*The Administrator shall publish*
 12 *each coral reef action plan prepared and submitted to the*
 13 *Task Force under this section on publicly available internet*
 14 *websites of—*

15 “(1) *the Coral Reef Conservation Program of the*
 16 *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;*
 17 *and*

18 “(2) *the Task Force.*

19 **“SEC. 206. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS.**

20 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*To further the community-based*
 21 *stewardship of coral reefs, coral reef stewardship partner-*
 22 *ships for Federal and non-Federal coral reefs may be estab-*
 23 *lished in accordance with this section.*

24 “(b) *STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.*—*The Adminis-*
 25 *trator shall develop and adopt—*

1 “(1) *standards for identifying individual coral*
 2 *reefs and ecologically significant units of coral reefs;*
 3 *and*

4 “(2) *processes for adjudicating multiple appli-*
 5 *cants for stewardship of the same coral reef or eco-*
 6 *logically significant unit of a reef to ensure no geo-*
 7 *graphic overlap in representation among stewardship*
 8 *partnerships authorized by this section.*

9 “(c) *MEMBERSHIP FOR FEDERAL CORAL REEFS.—A*
 10 *coral reef stewardship partnership that has identified, as*
 11 *the subject of its stewardship activities, a coral reef or eco-*
 12 *logically significant unit of a coral reef that is fully or par-*
 13 *tially under the management jurisdiction of any Federal*
 14 *agency specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, in-*
 15 *clude the following:*

16 “(1) *That Federal agency, a representative of*
 17 *which shall serve as chairperson of the coral reef stew-*
 18 *ardship partnership.*

19 “(2) *A State or county’s resource management*
 20 *agency.*

21 “(3) *A coral reef research center designated*
 22 *under section 214(b).*

23 “(4) *A nongovernmental organization.*

1 “(5) *Such other members as the partnership con-*
 2 *siders appropriate, such as interested stakeholder*
 3 *groups and covered Native entities.*

4 “(d) *MEMBERSHIP FOR NON-FEDERAL CORAL*
 5 *REEFS.—*

6 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—A coral reef stewardship*
 7 *partnership that has identified, as the subject of its*
 8 *stewardship activities, a coral reef or ecologically sig-*
 9 *nificant component of a coral reef that is not under*
 10 *the management jurisdiction of any Federal agency*
 11 *specified in section 203(c) shall, at a minimum, in-*
 12 *clude the following:*

13 “(A) *A State or county’s resource manage-*
 14 *ment agency or a covered Native entity, a rep-*
 15 *resentative of which shall serve as the chair-*
 16 *person of the coral reef stewardship partnership.*

17 “(B) *A coral reef research center designated*
 18 *under section 214(b).*

19 “(C) *A nongovernmental organization.*

20 “(D) *Such other members as the partner-*
 21 *ship considers appropriate, such as interested*
 22 *stakeholder groups.*

23 “(2) *ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—*

24 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-*
 25 *graph (B), a coral reef stewardship partnership*

1 *described in paragraph (1) may also include*
 2 *representatives of one or more Federal agencies.*

3 “(B) *REQUESTS; APPROVAL.*—*A representa-*
 4 *tive of a Federal agency described in subpara-*
 5 *graph (A) may become a member of a coral reef*
 6 *stewardship partnership described in paragraph*
 7 *(1) if—*

8 “(i) *the representative submits a re-*
 9 *quest to become a member to the chair-*
 10 *person of the partnership referred to in*
 11 *paragraph (1)(A); and*

12 “(ii) *the chairperson consents to the re-*
 13 *quest.*

14 “(e) *NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-*
 15 *MITTEE ACT.*—*The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5*
 16 *U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to coral reef stewardship part-*
 17 *nerships under this section.*

18 **“SEC. 207. BLOCK GRANTS.**

19 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Administrator shall provide*
 20 *block grants of financial assistance to covered States to sup-*
 21 *port management and restoration activities and further the*
 22 *implementation of coral reef action plans in effect under*
 23 *section 205 by covered States and non-Federal coral reef*
 24 *stewardship partnerships in accordance with this section.*
 25 *The Administrator shall review each covered State’s appli-*

1 cation for block grant funding to ensure that applications
 2 are consistent with applicable action plans and the national
 3 coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section 204.

4 “(b) *ELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.*—

5 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—A covered State shall qualify
 6 for and receive additional grant amounts beyond the
 7 base award specified in subsection (c)(1) if there is at
 8 least one coral reef action plan in effect within the ju-
 9 risdiction of the covered State developed by that cov-
 10 ered State or a non-Federal coral reef stewardship
 11 partnership.

12 “(2) *WAIVER FOR CERTAIN FISCAL YEARS.*—The
 13 Administrator may waive the requirement under
 14 paragraph (1) during fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

15 “(c) *FUNDING FORMULA.*—Subject to the availability
 16 of appropriations, the amount of each block grant awarded
 17 to a covered State under this section shall be the sum of—

18 “(1) a base award of \$100,000; and

19 “(2) if the State is eligible under subsection
 20 (b)—

21 “(A) an amount that is equal to non-Fed-
 22 eral expenditures of up to \$3,000,000 on coral
 23 reef management and restoration activities with-
 24 in the jurisdiction of the State, as reported with-
 25 in the previous fiscal year; and

1 “(B) an additional amount, from any funds
 2 appropriated for block grants under this section
 3 that remain after distribution under subpara-
 4 graph (A) and paragraph (1), based on the pro-
 5 portion of the State’s share of total non-Federal
 6 expenditures on coral reef management and res-
 7 toration activities, as reported within the pre-
 8 vious fiscal year, in excess of \$3,000,000, relative
 9 to other covered States.

10 “(d) *EXCLUSIONS.*—For the purposes of calculating
 11 block grant amounts under subsection (c), Federal funds
 12 provided to a covered State or non-Federal coral reef stew-
 13 ardship partnership shall not be considered as qualifying
 14 non-Federal expenditures, but non-Federal matching funds
 15 used to leverage Federal awards may be considered as quali-
 16 fying non-Federal expenditures.

17 “(e) *RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.*—
 18 The Administrator is responsible for—

19 “(1) providing guidance on qualifying non-Fed-
 20 eral expenditures and the proper documentation of
 21 such expenditures;

22 “(2) issuing annual solicitations to covered
 23 States for awards under this section; and

1 “(3) *determining the appropriate allocation of*
 2 *additional amounts among covered States in accord-*
 3 *ance with this section.*

4 “(f) *RESPONSIBILITIES OF COVERED STATES.—Each*
 5 *covered State is responsible for documenting non-Federal*
 6 *expenditures within the jurisdiction of the State and for-*
 7 *mally reporting those expenditures for review in response*
 8 *to annual solicitations by the Administrator under sub-*
 9 *section (e).*

10 “(g) *UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Any amounts avail-*
 11 *able for block grants under this section that are not obli-*
 12 *gated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-*
 13 *tration shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship*
 14 *Fund established under section 209.*

15 **“SEC. 208. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**

16 “(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall seek to*
 17 *enter into cooperative agreements with covered States to*
 18 *fund coral reef conservation and restoration activities in*
 19 *waters managed under the jurisdiction of those covered*
 20 *States that are consistent with the national coral reef resil-*
 21 *ience strategy in effect under section 204 and any applica-*
 22 *ble action plans under section 205.*

23 “(b) *ALL ISLANDS COMMITTEE.—The Administrator*
 24 *may enter into a cooperative agreement with the All Islands*

1 *Committee of the Task Force to provide support for its ac-*
 2 *tivities.*

3 “(c) *FUNDING.*—*Cooperative agreements under sub-*
 4 *section (a) shall provide not less than \$500,000 to each cov-*
 5 *ered State and are not subject to any matching requirement.*

6 “(d) *UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.*—*Any amounts avail-*
 7 *able for cooperative agreements under this section that are*
 8 *not obligated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-*
 9 *ministration shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Steward-*
 10 *ship Fund established under section 209.*

11 **“SEC. 209. CORAL REEF STEWARDSHIP FUND.**

12 “(a) *AGREEMENT.*—*The Administrator shall seek to*
 13 *enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wild-*
 14 *life Foundation (in this section referred to as the ‘Founda-*
 15 *tion’), authorizing the Foundation to receive, hold, and ad-*
 16 *minister funds received under this section.*

17 “(b) *FUND.*—

18 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Foundation shall estab-*
 19 *lish an account, which shall—*

20 “(A) *be known as the ‘Coral Reef Steward-*
 21 *ship Fund’ (in this section referred to as the*
 22 *‘Fund’); and*

23 “(B) *serve as the successor to the account*
 24 *known before the date of the enactment of the Re-*
 25 *storing Resilient Reefs Act of 2021 as the Coral*

1 *Reef Conservation Fund and administered*
 2 *through a public-private partnership with the*
 3 *Foundation.*

4 “(2) *DEPOSITS.—The Foundation shall deposit*
 5 *funds received under this section into the Fund.*

6 “(3) *PURPOSES.—The Fund shall be available*
 7 *solely to support coral reef stewardship activities*
 8 *that—*

9 “(A) *further the purposes of this title; and*

10 “(B) *are consistent with—*

11 “(i) *the national coral reef resilience*
 12 *strategy in effect under section 204; and*

13 “(ii) *coral reef action plans in effect, if*
 14 *any, under section 205 covering a coral reef*
 15 *or ecologically significant component of a*
 16 *coral reef to be impacted by such activities,*
 17 *if applicable.*

18 “(4) *INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—*

19 “(A) *INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—The*
 20 *Foundation shall invest such portion of the Fund*
 21 *as is not required to meet current withdrawals*
 22 *in interest-bearing obligations of the United*
 23 *States or in obligations guaranteed as to both*
 24 *principal and interest by the United States.*

1 “(B) *INTEREST AND PROCEEDS.*—*The inter-*
 2 *est on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemp-*
 3 *tion of, any obligations held in the Fund shall*
 4 *be credited to and form a part of the Fund.*

5 “(5) *REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.*—*The Adminis-*
 6 *trator shall conduct a continuing review of all depos-*
 7 *its into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each re-*
 8 *view shall include a written assessment concerning*
 9 *the extent to which the Foundation has implemented*
 10 *the goals and requirements of—*

11 “(A) *this section; and*

12 “(B) *the national coral reef resilience strat-*
 13 *egy in effect under section 204.*

14 “(c) *AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.*—

15 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Pursuant to an agreement*
 16 *entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation*
 17 *may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use*
 18 *any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of*
 19 *title 31, United States Code, donations of services) to*
 20 *further the purposes of this title.*

21 “(2) *DEPOSITS IN FUND.*—*Notwithstanding sec-*
 22 *tion 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any funds*
 23 *received as a gift shall be deposited and maintained*
 24 *in the Fund.*

1 “(d) *ADMINISTRATION.*—Under an agreement entered
 2 into pursuant to subsection (a), and subject to the avail-
 3 ability of appropriations, the Administrator shall transfer
 4 funds described in sections 207(g), 208(d), 213(i), and
 5 214(c) that are not obligated by the National Oceanic and
 6 Atmospheric Administration, and may transfer funds ap-
 7 propriated to carry out this title, to the Foundation.
 8 Amounts received by the Foundation under this subsection
 9 may be used for matching, in whole or in part, contribu-
 10 tions (whether in money, services, or property) made to the
 11 Foundation by private persons, State or local government
 12 agencies, or covered Native entities.

13 **“SEC. 210. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.**

14 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any other provi-
 15 sion of law, from funds appropriated pursuant to the au-
 16 thorization of appropriations under section 217, the Ad-
 17 ministrator may provide emergency assistance to any cov-
 18 ered State or coral reef stewardship partnership to respond
 19 to immediate harm to coral reefs or coral reef ecosystems
 20 arising from any of the exigent circumstances described in
 21 subsection (b).

22 “(b) *CORAL REEF EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.*—The
 23 Administrator shall develop a list of, and criteria for, cir-
 24 cumstances that pose an exigent threat to coral reefs, includ-
 25 ing—

1 “(1) new and ongoing outbreaks of disease;

2 “(2) new and ongoing outbreaks of invasive or
3 *nuisance species*;

4 “(3) new and ongoing coral bleaching events;

5 “(4) natural disasters;

6 “(5) industrial or mechanical incidents, such as
7 *vessel groundings, hazardous spills, or coastal con-*
8 *struction accidents; and*

9 “(6) other circumstances that pose an urgent
10 *threat to coral reefs.*

11 “(c) *ANNUAL REPORT ON EXIGENT CIR-*
12 *CUMSTANCES.—On February 1 of each year, the Adminis-*
13 *trator shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-*
14 *mittees, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate,*
15 *and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-*
16 *resentatives a report that—*

17 “(1) describes locations with exigent cir-
18 *cumstances described in subsection (b) that were con-*
19 *sidered but declined for emergency assistance, and the*
20 *rationale for the decision; and*

21 “(2) with respect to each instance in which emer-
22 *gency assistance under this section was provided—*

23 “(A) the location and a description of the
24 *exigent circumstances that prompted the emer-*
25 *gency assistance, the entity that received the as-*

1 *sistance, and the current and expected outcomes*
 2 *from the assistance;*

3 “(B) *a description of activities of the Na-*
 4 *tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*
 5 *that were curtailed as a result of providing the*
 6 *emergency assistance;*

7 “(C) *in the case of an incident described in*
 8 *subsection (b)(5), a statement of whether legal*
 9 *action was commenced under subsection (c), and*
 10 *the rationale for the decision; and*

11 “(D) *an assessment of whether further ac-*
 12 *tion is needed to restore the affected coral reef,*
 13 *recommendations for such restoration, and a cost*
 14 *estimate to implement such recommendations.*

15 **“SEC. 211. CORAL REEF DISASTER FUND.**

16 “(a) *AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator shall seek to*
 17 *enter into an agreement with the National Fish and Wild-*
 18 *life Foundation (in this section referred to as the ‘Founda-*
 19 *tion’), authorizing the Foundation to receive, hold, and ad-*
 20 *minister funds received under this section.*

21 “(b) *FUND.—*

22 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall estab-*
 23 *lish an account, to be known as the ‘Coral Reef Dis-*
 24 *aster Fund’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’).*

1 “(2) *DEPOSITS.*—*The Foundation shall deposit*
 2 *funds received under this section into the Fund.*

3 “(3) *PURPOSES.*—*The Fund shall be available*
 4 *solely to support the long-term recovery of coral reefs*
 5 *from exigent circumstances described in section 210—*

6 “(A) *in partnership with non-Federal stake-*
 7 *holders; and*

8 “(B) *in a manner that is consistent with—*

9 “(i) *the national coral reef resilience*
 10 *strategy in effect under section 204; and*

11 “(ii) *coral reef action plans in effect, if*
 12 *any, under section 205.*

13 “(4) *INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.*—

14 “(A) *INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.*—*The*
 15 *Foundation shall invest such portion of the Fund*
 16 *as is not required to meet current withdrawals*
 17 *in interest-bearing obligations of the United*
 18 *States or in obligations guaranteed as to both*
 19 *principal and interest by the United States.*

20 “(B) *INTEREST AND PROCEEDS.*—*The inter-*
 21 *est on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemp-*
 22 *tion of, any obligations held in the Fund shall*
 23 *be credited to and form a part of the Fund.*

24 “(5) *REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE.*—*The Adminis-*
 25 *trator shall conduct continuing reviews of all deposits*

1 *into, and disbursements from, the Fund. Each such*
 2 *review shall include a written assessment concerning*
 3 *the extent to which the Foundation has implemented*
 4 *the goals and requirements of this section.*

5 *“(c) AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT DONATIONS.—*

6 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to an agreement*
 7 *entered into under subsection (a), the Foundation*
 8 *may accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use*
 9 *any gift (including, notwithstanding section 1342 of*
 10 *title 31, United States Code, donations of services) to*
 11 *further the purposes of this title.*

12 *“(2) DEPOSITS IN FUND.—Notwithstanding sec-*
 13 *tion 3302 of title 31, United States Code, any funds*
 14 *received as a gift shall be deposited and maintained*
 15 *in the Fund.*

16 *“(d) ADMINISTRATION.—Under an agreement entered*
 17 *into under subsection (a), and subject to the availability*
 18 *of appropriations, the Administrator may transfer funds*
 19 *appropriated to carry out this title to the Foundation.*
 20 *Amounts received by the Foundation under this subsection*
 21 *may be used for matching, in whole or in part, contribu-*
 22 *tions (whether in money, services, or property) made to the*
 23 *Foundation by private persons, State or local government*
 24 *agencies, or covered Native entities.*

1 **“SEC. 212. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.**

2 *“The Administrator, in coordination with the Com-*
3 *mandant of the Coast Guard, the Administrator of the Mar-*
4 *itime Administration, and the heads of other Federal and*
5 *State agencies as appropriate, shall establish and maintain*
6 *an inventory of all vessel grounding incidents involving*
7 *United States coral reefs, including a description of—*

8 *“(1) the location of each such incident;*

9 *“(2) vessel and ownership information relating*
10 *to each such incident, if available;*

11 *“(3) the impacts of each such incident to coral*
12 *reefs, coral reef ecosystems, and related natural re-*
13 *sources;*

14 *“(4) the estimated cost of removal of the vessel,*
15 *remediation, or restoration arising from each such in-*
16 *cident;*

17 *“(5) any response actions taken by the owner of*
18 *the vessel, the Administrator, the Commandant, or*
19 *representatives of other Federal or State agencies;*

20 *“(6) the status of such response actions, includ-*
21 *ing—*

22 *“(A) when the grounded vessel was removed,*
23 *the costs of removal, and the how the removal*
24 *was resourced;*

1 “(B) a narrative and timeline of remedi-
 2 ation or restoration activities undertaken by a
 3 Federal agency or agencies;

4 “(C) any emergency or disaster assistance
 5 provided under section 210 or 211;

6 “(D) any actions taken to prevent future
 7 grounding incidents; and

8 “(7) recommendations for additional naviga-
 9 tional aids or other mechanisms for preventing future
 10 grounding incidents.

11 **“SEC. 213. RUTH D. GATES CORAL REEF CONSERVATION**
 12 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to the availability of ap-
 14 propriations, the Administrator shall establish a program
 15 (to be known as the ‘Ruth D. Gates Coral Reef Conservation
 16 Grant Program’) to provide grants for projects for the con-
 17 servation and restoration of coral reef ecosystems (in this
 18 section referred to as ‘coral reef projects’) pursuant to pro-
 19 posals approved by the Administrator in accordance with
 20 this section.

21 “(b) *MATCHING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS.*—

22 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in para-
 23 graph (3), Federal funds for any coral reef project for
 24 which a grant is provided under subsection (a) may
 25 not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project.

1 “(2) *NON-FEDERAL SHARE.*—*The non-Federal*
 2 *share of the cost of a coral reef project may be pro-*
 3 *vided by in-kind contributions and other noncash*
 4 *support.*

5 “(3) *WAIVER.*—*The Administrator may waive*
 6 *all or part of the matching requirement under para-*
 7 *graph (1) if the Administrator determines that no*
 8 *reasonable means are available through which an ap-*
 9 *plicant can meet the matching requirement with re-*
 10 *spect to a coral reef project and the probable benefit*
 11 *of the project outweighs the public interest in the*
 12 *matching requirement.*

13 “(c) *ELIGIBILITY.*—

14 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*An entity described in para-*
 15 *graph (2) may submit to the Administrator a pro-*
 16 *posal for a coral reef project.*

17 “(2) *ENTITIES DESCRIBED.*—*An entity described*
 18 *in this paragraph is—*

19 “(A) *a covered reef manager or a covered*
 20 *Native entity—*

21 “(i) *with responsibility for coral reef*
 22 *management; or*

23 “(ii) *the activities of which directly or*
 24 *indirectly affect coral reefs or coral reef eco-*
 25 *systems;*

1 “(B) a regional fishery management council
 2 established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
 3 Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C.
 4 1801 *et seq.*);

5 “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership
 6 seeking to implement a coral reef action plan in
 7 effect under section 205;

8 “(D) a coral reef research center designated
 9 under section 214(b); or

10 “(E) another nongovernmental organization
 11 or research institution with demonstrated exper-
 12 tise in the conservation or restoration of coral
 13 reefs in practice or through significant contribu-
 14 tions to the body of existing scientific research on
 15 coral reefs.

16 “(d) *PROJECT PROPOSALS.*—Each proposal for a
 17 grant under this section for a coral reef project shall include
 18 the following:

19 “(1) The name of the individual or entity re-
 20 sponsible for conducting the project.

21 “(2) A description of the qualifications of the in-
 22 dividual or entity.

23 “(3) A succinct statement of the purposes of the
 24 project.

1 “(4) *An estimate of the funds and time required*
2 *to complete the project.*

3 “(5) *Evidence of support for the project by ap-*
4 *propriate representatives of States or other govern-*
5 *ment jurisdictions in which the project will be con-*
6 *ducted.*

7 “(6) *Information regarding the source and*
8 *amount of matching funding available to the appli-*
9 *cant.*

10 “(7) *A description of how the project meets one*
11 *or more of the criteria under subsection (f)(2).*

12 “(8) *In the case of a proposal submitted by a*
13 *coral reef stewardship partnership, a description of*
14 *how the project aligns with the applicable coral reef*
15 *action plan in effect under section 205.*

16 “(9) *Any other information the Administrator*
17 *considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility*
18 *of the project for a grant under this subsection.*

19 “(e) *PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—*

20 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall re-*
21 *view each coral reef project proposal submitted under*
22 *this section to determine if the project meets the cri-*
23 *teria set forth in subsection (f).*

24 “(2) *PRIORITIZATION OF CONSERVATION*
25 *PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the*

1 *awarding of funding for projects that meet the cri-*
 2 *teria for approval under subparagraphs (A) through*
 3 *(G) of subsection (f)(2) that are proposed to be con-*
 4 *ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef*
 5 *conservation by the Administrator under the national*
 6 *coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section*
 7 *204.*

8 “(3) *PRIORITIZATION OF RESTORATION*
 9 *PROJECTS.—The Administrator shall prioritize the*
 10 *awarding of funding for projects that meet the cri-*
 11 *teria for approval under subparagraphs (E) through*
 12 *(L) of subsection (f)(2) that are proposed to be con-*
 13 *ducted within priority areas identified for coral reef*
 14 *restoration by the Administrator under the national*
 15 *coral reef resilience strategy in effect under section*
 16 *204.*

17 “(4) *REVIEW; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not*
 18 *later than 180 days after receiving a proposal for a*
 19 *coral reef project under this section, the Adminis-*
 20 *trator shall—*

21 “(A) *request and consider written comments*
 22 *on the proposal from each Federal agency, State*
 23 *government, covered Native entity, or other gov-*
 24 *ernment jurisdiction, including the relevant re-*
 25 *gional fishery management councils established*

1 *under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conserva-*
2 *tion and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et*
3 *seq.), or any National Marine Sanctuary or Ma-*
4 *rine National Monument, with jurisdiction or*
5 *management authority over coral reef ecosystems*
6 *in the area where the project is to be conducted,*
7 *including the extent to which the project is con-*
8 *sistent with locally established priorities, unless*
9 *such entities were directly involved in the devel-*
10 *opment of the project proposal;*

11 *“(B) provide for the merit-based peer review*
12 *of the proposal and require standardized docu-*
13 *mentation of that peer review;*

14 *“(C) after considering any written com-*
15 *ments and recommendations based on the reviews*
16 *under subparagraphs (A) and (B), approve or*
17 *disapprove the proposal; and*

18 *“(D) provide written notification of that*
19 *approval or disapproval, with summaries of all*
20 *written comments, recommendations, and peer*
21 *reviews, to the entity that submitted the pro-*
22 *posal, and each of those States, covered Native*
23 *entity, and other government jurisdictions that*
24 *provided comments under subparagraph (A).*

1 “(f) *CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.*—*The Administrator*
 2 *may not approve a proposal for a coral reef project under*
 3 *this section unless the project—*

4 “(1) *is consistent with—*

5 “(A) *the national coral reef resilience strat-*
 6 *egy in effect under section 204; and*

7 “(B) *any Federal or non-Federal coral reef*
 8 *action plans in effect under section 205 covering*
 9 *a coral reef or ecologically significant unit of a*
 10 *coral reef to be affected by the project; and*

11 “(2) *will enhance the conservation and restora-*
 12 *tion of coral reefs by—*

13 “(A) *addressing conflicts arising from the*
 14 *use of environments near coral reefs or from the*
 15 *use of corals, species associated with coral reefs,*
 16 *and coral products, including supporting con-*
 17 *sensus-driven, community-based planning and*
 18 *management initiatives for the protection of*
 19 *coral reef ecosystems;*

20 “(B) *improving compliance with laws that*
 21 *prohibit or regulate the taking of coral products*
 22 *or species associated with coral reefs or regulate*
 23 *the use and management of coral reef ecosystems;*

24 “(C) *designing and implementing networks*
 25 *of real-time water quality monitoring along*

1 coral reefs, including data collection related to
2 turbidity, nutrient availability, harmful algal
3 blooms, and plankton assemblages, with an em-
4 phasis on coral reefs impacted by agriculture
5 and urban development;

6 “(D) promoting ecologically sound naviga-
7 tion and anchorages, including mooring buoy
8 systems to promote enhanced recreational access,
9 near coral reefs;

10 “(E) furthering the goals and objectives of
11 coral reef action plans in effect under section
12 205;

13 “(F) mapping the location and distribution
14 of coral reefs and potential coral reef habitat;

15 “(G) stimulating innovation to advance the
16 ability of the United States to understand, re-
17 search, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to de-
18 velop management or adaptation options to con-
19 serve and restore coral reef ecosystems;

20 “(H) implementing research to ensure the
21 population viability of listed coral species in
22 United States waters as detailed in the popu-
23 lation-based recovery criteria included in species-
24 specific recovery plans consistent with the En-

1 *dangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et*
 2 *seq.);*

3 *“(I) developing and implementing cost-effec-*
 4 *tive methods to restore degraded coral reef eco-*
 5 *systems or to create geographically appropriate*
 6 *coral reef ecosystems in suitable waters, includ-*
 7 *ing by improving habitat or promoting success of*
 8 *keystone species, with an emphasis on novel res-*
 9 *toration strategies and techniques to advance*
 10 *coral reef recovery and growth near population*
 11 *centers threatened by rising sea levels and storm*
 12 *surge;*

13 *“(J) translating and applying coral genet-*
 14 *ics research to coral reef ecosystem restoration,*
 15 *including research related to traits that promote*
 16 *resilience to increasing ocean temperatures,*
 17 *ocean acidification, coral bleaching, coral dis-*
 18 *eases, and invasive species;*

19 *“(K) developing and maintaining in situ*
 20 *native coral propagation sites; or*

21 *“(L) developing and maintaining ex situ*
 22 *coral propagation nurseries and land-based coral*
 23 *gene banks to—*

24 *“(i) conserve or augment genetic diver-*
 25 *sity of native coral populations;*

1 “(ii) support captive breeding of rare
2 coral species; or

3 “(iii) enhance resilience of native coral
4 populations to increasing ocean tempera-
5 tures, ocean acidification, coral bleaching,
6 and coral diseases through selective breed-
7 ing, conditioning, or other approaches that
8 target genes, gene expression, phenotypic
9 traits, or phenotypic plasticity.

10 “(g) *FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.*—To the extent prac-
11 ticable based upon proposals for coral reef projects sub-
12 mitted to the Administrator, the Administrator shall ensure
13 that funding for grants awarded under this section during
14 a fiscal year is distributed as follows:

15 “(1) Not less than 40 percent of funds available
16 shall be awarded for projects in the Pacific Ocean
17 within the maritime areas and zones subject to the ju-
18 risdiction or control of the United States.

19 “(2) Not less than 40 percent of the funds avail-
20 able shall be awarded for projects in the Atlantic
21 Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Caribbean Sea with-
22 in the maritime areas and zones subject to the juris-
23 diction or control of the United States.

24 “(3) Not more than 67 percent of funds distrib-
25 uted in each region in accordance with paragraphs

1 (1) and (2) shall be made exclusively available to
2 projects that are—

3 “(A) submitted by a coral reef stewardship
4 partnership; and

5 “(B) consistent with the coral reef action
6 plan in effect under section 205 by such a part-
7 nership.

8 “(4) Of the funds distributed to support projects
9 in accordance with paragraph (3), not less than 20
10 percent and not more than 33 percent shall be award-
11 ed for projects submitted by a Federal coral reef stew-
12 ardship partnership.

13 “(h) *TASK FORCE.*—The Administrator may consult
14 with the Secretary of the Interior and the Task Force to
15 obtain guidance in establishing priorities and evaluating
16 proposals for coral reef projects under this section.

17 “(i) *UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.*—Any amounts avail-
18 able for grants under this section that are not obligated by
19 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
20 shall be transferred to the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund
21 established under section 209.

22 **“SEC. 214. NON-FEDERAL CORAL REEF RESEARCH.**

23 “(a) *REEF RESEARCH COORDINATION INSTITUTES.*—

24 “(1) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Administrator shall
25 designate 2 reef research coordination institutes for

1 *the purpose of advancing and sustaining essential ca-*
 2 *pabilities in coral reef research, one each in the At-*
 3 *lantic and Pacific basins, to be known as the ‘Atlan-*
 4 *tic Reef Research Coordination Institute’ and the ‘Pa-*
 5 *cific Reef Research Coordination Institute’, respec-*
 6 *tively.*

7 “(2) *MEMBERSHIP.*—*Each institute designated*
 8 *under paragraph (1) shall be housed within a single*
 9 *coral reef research center designated by the Adminis-*
 10 *trator under subsection (b) and may enter into con-*
 11 *tracts with other coral reef research centers designated*
 12 *under subsection (b) within the same basin to support*
 13 *the institute’s capacity and reach.*

14 “(3) *FUNCTIONS.*—*The institutes designated*
 15 *under paragraph (1) shall—*

16 “(A) *conduct federally directed research to*
 17 *fill national and regional coral reef ecosystem re-*
 18 *search gaps and improve understanding of, and*
 19 *responses to, continuing and emerging threats to*
 20 *the resilience of United States coral reef eco-*
 21 *systems consistent with the national coral reef*
 22 *resilience strategy in effect under section 204;*

23 “(B) *support ecological research and moni-*
 24 *toring to study the effects of conservation and*
 25 *restoration activities funded by this title on pro-*

1 *moting more effective coral reef management and*
 2 *restoration; and*

3 *“(C) through agreements—*

4 *“(i) collaborate directly with govern-*
 5 *mental resource management agencies, coral*
 6 *reef stewardship partnerships, nonprofit or-*
 7 *ganizations, and other coral reef research*
 8 *centers designated under subsection (b);*

9 *“(ii) assist in the development and im-*
 10 *plementation of—*

11 *“(I) the national coral reef resil-*
 12 *ience strategy under section 204; and*

13 *“(II) coral reef action plans under*
 14 *section 205;*

15 *“(iii) build capacity within non-Fed-*
 16 *eral governmental resource management*
 17 *agencies to establish research priorities and*
 18 *translate and apply research findings to*
 19 *management and restoration practices; and*

20 *“(iv) conduct public education and*
 21 *awareness programs for policymakers, re-*
 22 *source managers, and the general public*
 23 *on—*

24 *“(I) coral reefs and coral reef eco-*
 25 *systems;*

1 “(II) best practices for coral reef
2 ecosystem management and restora-
3 tion;

4 “(III) the value of coral reefs; and

5 “(IV) the threats to the sustain-
6 ability of coral reef ecosystems.

7 “(b) CORAL REEF RESEARCH CENTERS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

9 “(A) periodically solicit applications for
10 designation of qualifying institutions in covered
11 States as coral reef research centers; and

12 “(B) designate all qualifying institutions in
13 covered States as coral reef research centers.

14 “(2) QUALIFYING INSTITUTIONS.—For purposes
15 of paragraph (1), an institution is a qualifying insti-
16 tution if the Administrator determines that the insti-
17 tution—

18 “(A) is operated by an institution of higher
19 education or nonprofit marine research organi-
20 zation;

21 “(B) has established management-driven
22 national or regional coral reef research or res-
23 toration programs;

24 “(C) has demonstrated abilities to coordi-
25 nate closely with appropriate Federal and State

1 agencies, as well as other academic and non-
2 profit organizations; and

3 “(D) maintains significant local commu-
4 nity engagement and outreach programs related
5 to coral reef ecosystems.

6 “(c) *UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.*—Any amounts avail-
7 able for reef research coordination institutes under this sec-
8 tion that are not obligated by the National Oceanic and
9 Atmospheric Administration shall be transferred to the
10 Coral Reef Stewardship Fund established under section 209.

11 **“SEC. 215. REPORTS ON ADMINISTRATION.**

12 “Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment
13 of the *Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2021*, and every 2
14 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the ap-
15 propriate congressional committees, the Committee on Ap-
16 propriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Appro-
17 priations of the House of Representatives a report on the
18 administration of this title during the 2-year period pre-
19 ceding submission of the report, including—

20 “(1) a description of all activities undertaken to
21 implement the most recent national coral reef resil-
22 ience strategy under section 204;

23 “(2) a statement of all funds obligated under the
24 authorities of this title; and

1 “(3) *a summary, disaggregated by State, of Fed-*
 2 *eral and non-Federal contributions toward the costs of*
 3 *each project or activity funded, in full or in part,*
 4 *under the authorities of this title.*

5 **“SEC. 216. CORAL REEF PRIZE COMPETITIONS.**

6 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The head of any Federal agency*
 7 *with a representative serving on the United States Coral*
 8 *Reef Task Force established by Executive Order 13089 (16*
 9 *U.S.C. 6401 note; relating to coral reef protection), may,*
 10 *individually or in cooperation with one or more agencies,*
 11 *carry out a program to award prizes competitively under*
 12 *section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation*
 13 *Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).*

14 “(b) *PURPOSES.*—*Any program carried out under this*
 15 *section shall be for the purpose of stimulating innovation*
 16 *to advance the ability of the United States to understand,*
 17 *research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems, or to develop*
 18 *management or adaptation options to preserve, sustain,*
 19 *and restore coral reef ecosystems.*

20 “(c) *PRIORITY PROGRAMS.*—*Priority shall be given to*
 21 *establishing programs under this section that address com-*
 22 *munities, environments, or industries that are in distress*
 23 *as a result of the decline or degradation of coral reef eco-*
 24 *systems, including—*

1 “(1) scientific research and monitoring that fur-
 2 thers the understanding of causes behind coral reef de-
 3 cline and degradation and the generally slow recovery
 4 following disturbances, including ocean acidification,
 5 temperature-related bleaching, disease, and their asso-
 6 ciated impacts on coral physiology;

7 “(2) the development of monitoring or manage-
 8 ment options for communities or industries that are
 9 experiencing significant financial hardship;

10 “(3) the development of adaptation options to al-
 11 leviate economic harm and job loss caused by damage
 12 to coral reef ecosystems;

13 “(4) the development of measures to help vulner-
 14 able communities or industries, with an emphasis on
 15 rural communities and businesses; and

16 “(5) the development of adaptation and manage-
 17 ment options for impacted tourism industries.”;

18 (3) in section 217, as redesignated by paragraph
 19 (1)—

20 (A) in subsection (c), by striking “section
 21 204” and inserting “section 213”;

22 (B) in subsection (d), by striking “under
 23 section 207” and inserting “authorized under
 24 this title”; and

25 (C) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(e) *BLOCK GRANTS.*—*There is authorized to be ap-*
 2 *propriated to the Administrator \$10,000,000 for each of fis-*
 3 *cal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out section 207.*

4 “(f) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—*There is authorized*
 5 *to be appropriated to the Administrator \$10,000,000 for*
 6 *each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out section*
 7 *208.*

8 “(g) *NON-FEDERAL CORAL REEF RESEARCH.*—*There*
 9 *is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator*
 10 *\$4,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 for*
 11 *agreements with the reef research coordination institutes*
 12 *designated under section 214.”; and*

13 *(4) by amending section 218, as redesignated by*
 14 *paragraph (1), to read as follows:*

15 **“SEC. 218. DEFINITIONS.**

16 *“In this title:*

17 “(1) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—*The term ‘Adminis-*
 18 *trator’ means the Administrator of the National Oce-*
 19 *anic and Atmospheric Administration.*

20 “(2) *ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.*—*The term*
 21 *‘Alaska Native Corporation’ has the meaning given*
 22 *the term ‘Native Corporation’ in section 3 of the Alas-*
 23 *ka Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).*

24 “(3) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
 25 *TEES.*—*The term ‘appropriate congressional commit-*

tees’ means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

“(4) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’ means the use of methods and procedures necessary to preserve or sustain native corals and associated species as diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral reef ecosystems with minimal impacts from invasive species, including—

“(A) all activities associated with resource management, such as monitoring, assessment, protection, restoration, sustainable use, management of habitat, and maintenance or augmentation of genetic diversity;

“(B) mapping;

“(C) scientific expertise and technical assistance in the development and implementation of management strategies for marine protected areas and marine resources consistent with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

“(D) law enforcement;

“(E) conflict resolution initiatives;

1 “(F) *community outreach and education;*
2 *and*

3 “(G) *promotion of safe and ecologically*
4 *sound navigation and anchoring.*

5 “(5) *CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species of*
6 *the phylum Cnidaria, including—*

7 “(A) *all species of the orders Antipatharia*
8 *(black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals),*
9 *Alcyonacea (soft corals, organ pipe corals,*
10 *gorgonians), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of*
11 *the class Anthozoa; and*

12 “(B) *all species of the order Anthoathecata*
13 *(fire corals and other hydrocorals) of the class*
14 *Hydrozoa.*

15 “(6) *CORAL PRODUCTS.—The term ‘coral prod-*
16 *ucts’ means any living or dead specimens, parts, or*
17 *derivatives, or any product containing specimens,*
18 *parts, or derivatives, of any species referred to in*
19 *paragraph (5).*

20 “(7) *CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’ means*
21 *calcium carbonate structures in the form of a reef or*
22 *shoal, composed in whole or in part by living coral,*
23 *skeletal remains of coral, crustose coralline algae, and*
24 *other associated sessile marine plants and animals.*

1 “(8) *CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM*.—The term ‘coral
2 reef ecosystem’ means—

3 “(A) corals and other geographically and
4 ecologically associated marine communities of
5 other reef organisms (including reef plants and
6 animals) associated with coral reef habitat; and

7 “(B) the biotic and abiotic factors and proc-
8 esses that control or affect coral calcification
9 rates, tissue growth, reproduction, recruitment,
10 abundance, coral-algal symbiosis, and biodiver-
11 sity in such habitat.

12 “(9) *COVERED NATIVE ENTITY*.—The term ‘cov-
13 ered Native entity’ means a Native entity of a covered
14 State with interests in a coral reef ecosystem.

15 “(10) *COVERED REEF MANAGER*.—The term ‘cov-
16 ered reef manager’ means—

17 “(A) a management unit of a covered State
18 with jurisdiction over a coral reef ecosystem;

19 “(B) a covered State; or

20 “(C) a coral reef stewardship partnership
21 under section 206(d).

22 “(11) *COVERED STATE*.—The term ‘covered
23 State’ means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of
24 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern

1 *Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the United*
 2 *States Virgin Islands.*

3 “(12) *FEDERAL REEF MANAGER.*—

4 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The term ‘Federal reef*
 5 *manager’ means—*

6 “(i) *a management unit of a Federal*
 7 *agency specified in subparagraph (B) with*
 8 *lead management jurisdiction over a coral*
 9 *reef ecosystem; or*

10 “(ii) *a coral reef stewardship partner-*
 11 *ship under section 206(c).*

12 “(B) *FEDERAL AGENCIES SPECIFIED.*—*A*
 13 *Federal agency specified in this subparagraph is*
 14 *one of the following:*

15 “(i) *The National Oceanic and Atmos-*
 16 *pheric Administration.*

17 “(ii) *The National Park Service.*

18 “(iii) *The United States Fish and*
 19 *Wildlife Service.*

20 “(iv) *The Office of Insular Affairs.*

21 “(13) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*—
 22 *The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the*
 23 *meaning given that term in section 101 of the Higher*
 24 *Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).*

1 “(14) *INTERESTED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS.*—

2 *The term ‘interested stakeholder groups’ includes com-*
 3 *munity members such as businesses, commercial and*
 4 *recreational fishermen, other recreationalists, covered*
 5 *Native entities, Federal, State, and local government*
 6 *units with related jurisdiction, institutions of higher*
 7 *education, and nongovernmental organizations.*

8 “(15) *NATIVE ENTITY.*—*The term ‘Native entity’*
 9 *means any of the following:*

10 “(A) *An Indian Tribe (as defined in section*
 11 *4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-*
 12 *cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).*

13 “(B) *An Alaska Native Corporation.*

14 “(C) *The Department of Hawaiian Home*
 15 *Lands.*

16 “(D) *The Office of Hawaiian Affairs.*

17 “(E) *A Native Hawaiian organization (as*
 18 *defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and*
 19 *Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.*
 20 *7517)).*

21 “(16) *NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.*—*The term*
 22 *‘nonprofit organization’ means any corporation,*
 23 *trust, association, cooperative, or other organization,*
 24 *not including an institutions of higher education,*
 25 *that—*

1 “(A) is operated primarily for scientific,
2 educational, service, charitable, or similar pur-
3 poses in the public interest;

4 “(B) is not organized primarily for profit;
5 and

6 “(C) uses net proceeds to maintain, im-
7 prove, or expand the operations of the organiza-
8 tion.

9 “(17) *RESTORATION*.—The term ‘restoration’
10 means the use of methods and procedures necessary to
11 enhance, rehabilitate, recreate, or create a functioning
12 coral reef or coral reef ecosystem, in whole or in part,
13 within suitable waters of the historical geographic
14 range of such ecosystems, to provide ecological, eco-
15 nomic, cultural, or coastal resiliency services associ-
16 ated with healthy coral reefs and benefit native popu-
17 lations of coral reef organisms.

18 “(18) *RESILIENCE*.—The term ‘resilience’ means
19 the capacity for corals within their native range,
20 coral reefs, or coral reef ecosystems to resist and re-
21 cover from natural and human disturbances, and
22 maintain structure and function to provide ecosystem
23 services, as determined by clearly identifiable, meas-
24 urable, and science-based standards.

1 “(19) *SECRETARY*.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
2 *the Secretary of Commerce.*

3 “(20) *STATE*.—The term ‘State’ means—

4 “(A) *any State of the United States that*
5 *contains a coral reef ecosystem within its sea-*
6 *ward boundaries;*

7 “(B) *American Samoa, the Commonwealth*
8 *of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto*
9 *Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands; or*

10 “(C) *any other territory or possession of the*
11 *United States or separate sovereign in free asso-*
12 *ciation with the United States that contains a*
13 *coral reef ecosystem within its seaward bound-*
14 *aries.*

15 “(21) *STEWARDSHIP*.—The term ‘stewardship’,
16 *with respect to a coral reef, includes conservation, res-*
17 *toration, and public outreach and education.*

18 “(22) *TASK FORCE*.—The term ‘Task Force’
19 *means the United States Coral Reef Task Force estab-*
20 *lished under section 201 of the Restoring Resilient*
21 *Reefs Act of 2021.”.*

22 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL OCEANS*
23 *AND COASTAL SECURITY ACT*.—Section 905(a) of the Na-
24 *tional Oceans and Coastal Security Act (16 U.S.C.*
25 *7504(a)) is amended by striking “and coastal infrastruc-*

1 *ture” and inserting “, coastal infrastructure, and ecosystem*
 2 *services provided by natural systems such as coral reefs”.*

3 ***TITLE II—UNITED STATES***
 4 ***CORAL REEF TASK FORCE***

5 ***SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT.***

6 *There is established a task force to lead, coordinate,*
 7 *and strengthen Federal Government actions to better pre-*
 8 *serve, conserve, and restore coral reef ecosystems, to be*
 9 *known as the “United States Coral Reef Task Force” (in*
 10 *this title referred to as the “Task Force”).*

11 ***SEC. 202. DUTIES.***

12 *The duties of the Task Force shall be—*

13 *(1) to coordinate, in cooperation with covered*
 14 *States, covered Native entities, Federal reef managers,*
 15 *covered reef managers, coral reef research centers des-*
 16 *ignated under section 214(b) of the Coral Reef Con-*
 17 *servation Act of 2000 (as amended by section 101),*
 18 *and other nongovernmental and academic partners as*
 19 *appropriate, activities regarding the mapping, moni-*
 20 *toring, research, conservation, mitigation, and res-*
 21 *toration of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;*

22 *(2) to monitor and advise regarding implemen-*
 23 *tation of the policy and Federal agency responsibil-*
 24 *ities set forth in—*

1 (A) *Executive Order 13089 (63 Fed. Reg.*
2 *32701; relating to coral reef protection); and*

3 (B) *the national coral reef resilience strat-*
4 *egy developed under section 204 of the Coral Reef*
5 *Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by section*
6 *101;*

7 (3) *to work with the Secretary of State and the*
8 *Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-*
9 *national Development, and in coordination with the*
10 *other members of the Task Force—*

11 (A) *to assess the United States role in inter-*
12 *national trade and protection of coral species;*

13 (B) *to encourage implementation of appro-*
14 *priate strategies and actions to promote con-*
15 *servation and sustainable use of coral reef re-*
16 *sources worldwide; and*

17 (C) *to collaborate with international com-*
18 *munities successful in managing coral reefs;*

19 (4) *to provide technical assistance for the devel-*
20 *opment and implementation, as appropriate, of—*

21 (A) *the national coral reef resilience strat-*
22 *egy under section 204 of the Coral Reef Con-*
23 *servation Act of 2000, as amended by section*
24 *101; and*

1 (B) coral reef action plans under section
2 205 of that Act; and

3 (5) to produce a report each year, for submission
4 to the appropriate congressional committees and pub-
5 lication on a publicly available internet website of the
6 Task Force, highlighting the status of the coral reef
7 equities of a covered State on a rotating basis, includ-
8 ing—

9 (A) a summary of recent coral reef manage-
10 ment and restoration activities undertaken in
11 that State; and

12 (B) updated estimates of the direct and in-
13 direct economic activity supported by, and other
14 benefits associated with, those coral reef equities.

15 **SEC. 203. MEMBERSHIP.**

16 (a) *VOTING MEMBERSHIP.*—The Task Force shall have
17 the following voting members:

18 (1) The Secretary of Commerce, acting through
19 the Administrator of the National Oceanic and At-
20 mospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the
21 Interior, who shall be co-chairpersons of the Task
22 Force.

23 (2) The Administrator of the United States
24 Agency for International Development.

25 (3) The Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (4) *The Secretary of Defense.*

2 (5) *The Secretary of the Army, acting through*
3 *the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.*

4 (6) *The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting*
5 *through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency*
6 *Management Agency.*

7 (7) *The Commandant of the Coast Guard.*

8 (8) *The Attorney General.*

9 (9) *The Secretary of State.*

10 (10) *The Secretary of Transportation.*

11 (11) *The Administrator of the Environmental*
12 *Protection Agency.*

13 (12) *The Administrator of the National Aero-*
14 *nautics and Space Administration.*

15 (13) *The Director of the National Science Foun-*
16 *dation.*

17 (14) *The Governor, or a representative of the*
18 *Governor, of each covered State.*

19 (b) *NONVOTING MEMBERS.*—*The Task Force shall have*
20 *the following nonvoting members:*

21 (1) *A member of the South Atlantic Fishery*
22 *Management Council who is designated by the Gov-*
23 *ernor of Florida under section 302(b)(1) of the Mag-*
24 *nuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management*
25 *Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(b)(1)).*

1 (2) *A member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery*
2 *Management Council who is designated by the Gov-*
3 *ernor of Florida under such section.*

4 (3) *A member of the Western Pacific Fishery*
5 *Management Council who is designated under such*
6 *section and selected as follows:*

7 (A) *For the period beginning on the date of*
8 *the enactment of this Act and ending on Decem-*
9 *ber 31 of the calendar year during which such*
10 *date of enactment occurs, the member shall be se-*
11 *lected jointly by the governors of Hawaii, Amer-*
12 *ican Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of*
13 *the Northern Mariana Islands.*

14 (B) *For each calendar year thereafter, the*
15 *governors of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam,*
16 *and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana*
17 *Islands shall, on a rotating basis, take turns se-*
18 *lecting the member.*

19 (4) *A member of the Caribbean Fishery Manage-*
20 *ment Council who is designated under such section*
21 *and selected as follows:*

22 (A) *For the period beginning on the date of*
23 *the enactment of this Act and ending on Decem-*
24 *ber 31 of the calendar year during which such*
25 *date of enactment occurs, the member shall be se-*

1 lected jointly by the governors of Puerto Rico
2 and the United States Virgin Islands.

3 (B) For each calendar year thereafter, the
4 governors of Puerto Rico and the United States
5 Virgin Islands shall, on an alternating basis,
6 take turns selecting the member.

7 (5) A member appointed by the President of the
8 Federated States of Micronesia.

9 (6) A member appointed by the President of the
10 Republic of the Marshall Islands.

11 (7) A member appointed by the President of the
12 Republic of Palau.

13 **SEC. 204. RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEM-**
14 **BERS.**

15 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—A member of the Task Force speci-
16 fied in paragraphs (1) through (14) of section 203(a)
17 shall—

18 (1) identify the actions of the agency that mem-
19 ber represents that may affect coral reef ecosystems;

20 (2) utilize the programs and authorities of that
21 agency to protect and enhance the conditions of such
22 ecosystems, including through the promotion of basic
23 and applied scientific research;

24 (3) collaborate with the Task Force to appro-
25 priately reflect budgetary needs for coral reef con-

1 *ervation and restoration activities in all agency*
 2 *budget planning and justification documents and*
 3 *processes; and*

4 *(4) engage in any other coordinated efforts ap-*
 5 *proved by the Task Force.*

6 *(b) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—In addition to their respon-*
 7 *sibilities under subsection (a), the co-chairpersons of the*
 8 *Task Force shall administer performance of the functions*
 9 *of the Task Force and facilitate the coordination of the*
 10 *members of the Task Force specified in paragraphs (1)*
 11 *through (14) of section 203(a).*

12 **SEC. 205. WORKING GROUPS.**

13 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairpersons of the Task*
 14 *Force may establish working groups as necessary to meet*
 15 *the goals and carry out the duties of the Task Force.*

16 *(b) REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS.—The members of the*
 17 *Task Force may request that the co-chairpersons establish*
 18 *a working group under subsection (a).*

19 *(c) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-*
 20 *TIONS.—The co-chairpersons may allow nongovernmental*
 21 *organizations as appropriate, including academic institu-*
 22 *tions, conservation groups, and commercial and rec-*
 23 *reational fishing associations, to participate in a working*
 24 *group established under subsection (a).*

1 (d) *NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COM-*
 2 *MITTEE ACT.*—*The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5*
 3 *U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to working groups established*
 4 *under this section.*

5 **SEC. 206. DEFINITIONS.**

6 *In this title:*

7 (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
 8 *TEES.*—*The term “appropriate congressional commit-*
 9 *tees” means the Committee on Commerce, Science,*
 10 *and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee*
 11 *on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.*

12 (2) *CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF, ETC.*—
 13 *The terms “conservation”, “coral”, “coral reef”,*
 14 *“coral reef ecosystem”, “covered Native entity”, “cov-*
 15 *ered reef manager”, “covered State”, “Federal reef*
 16 *manager”, “Native entity”, “restoration”, “resil-*
 17 *ience”, and “State” have the meanings given those*
 18 *terms in section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation*
 19 *Act of 2000, as amended by section 101.*

1 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE**
 2 **INTERIOR CORAL REEF AU-**
 3 **THORITIES**

4 **SEC. 301. CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION**
 5 **ASSISTANCE.**

6 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Interior may
 7 provide scientific expertise and technical assistance, and
 8 subject to the availability of appropriations, financial as-
 9 sistance for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs
 10 consistent with all applicable laws governing resource man-
 11 agement in Federal, State, and Tribal waters, including—

12 (1) the national coral reef resilience strategy in
 13 effect under section 204 of the Coral Reef Conserva-
 14 tion Act of 2000, as amended by section 101; and

15 (2) coral reef action plans in effect under section
 16 205 of that Act, as applicable.

17 (b) *CORAL REEF INITIATIVE.*—The Secretary may es-
 18 tablish a Coral Reef Initiative Program—

19 (1) to provide grant funding to support local
 20 management, conservation, and protection of coral
 21 reef ecosystems in—

22 (A) coastal areas of covered States; and

23 (B) Freely Associated States;

24 (2) to enhance resource availability of National
 25 Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge System

1 *management units to implement coral reef conserva-*
 2 *tion and restoration activities;*

3 *(3) to complement the other conservation and as-*
 4 *sistance activities conducted under this Act or the*
 5 *Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by*
 6 *section 101; and*

7 *(4) to provide other technical, scientific, and fi-*
 8 *nancial assistance and conduct conservation and res-*
 9 *toration activities that advance the purposes of this*
 10 *Act and the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as*
 11 *amended by section 101.*

12 *(c) CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COM-*
 13 *MERCE.—*

14 *(1) CORAL REEF CONSERVATION AND RESTORA-*
 15 *TION ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Interior may*
 16 *consult with the Secretary of Commerce regarding the*
 17 *conduct of any activities to conserve and restore coral*
 18 *reefs and coral reef ecosystems in waters managed*
 19 *under the jurisdiction of the Federal agencies speci-*
 20 *fied in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 203(c) of the*
 21 *Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by*
 22 *section 101.*

23 *(2) AWARD OF CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT FEL-*
 24 *LOWSHIP.—The Secretary of the Interior shall consult*
 25 *with the Secretary of Commerce to award the Susan*

1 *L. Williams Coral Reef Management Fellowship*
 2 *under title IV.*

3 (d) *COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.*—*Subject to the*
 4 *availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior*
 5 *may enter into cooperative agreements with covered reef*
 6 *managers to fund coral reef conservation and restoration*
 7 *activities in waters managed under the jurisdiction of such*
 8 *managers that—*

9 (1) *are consistent with the national coral reef re-*
 10 *silience strategy in effect under section 204 of the*
 11 *Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by*
 12 *section 101; and*

13 (2) *support and enhance the success of coral reef*
 14 *action plans in effect under section 205 of that Act.*

15 (e) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

16 (1) *CONSERVATION, CORAL, CORAL REEF, ETC.*—
 17 *The terms “conservation”, “coral reef”, “covered reef*
 18 *manager”, “covered State”, “restoration”, and*
 19 *“State” have the meanings given those terms in sec-*
 20 *tion 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000,*
 21 *as amended by section 101.*

22 (2) *TRIBE; TRIBAL.*—*The terms “Tribe” and*
 23 *“Tribal” refer to Indian Tribes (as defined in section*
 24 *102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act*
 25 *of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130)).*

1 **TITLE IV—SUSAN L. WILLIAMS**
 2 **NATIONAL CORAL REEF MAN-**
 3 **AGEMENT FELLOWSHIP**

4 **SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

5 *This title may be cited as the “Susan L. Williams Na-*
 6 *tional Coral Reef Management Fellowship Act of 2021”.*

7 **SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.**

8 *In this title:*

9 (1) *ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.*—*The term*
 10 *“Alaska Native Corporation” has the meaning given*
 11 *the term “Native Corporation” in section 3 of the*
 12 *Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.*
 13 *1602).*

14 (2) *FELLOW.*—*The term “fellow” means a Na-*
 15 *tional Coral Reef Management Fellow.*

16 (3) *FELLOWSHIP.*—*The term “fellowship” means*
 17 *the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship es-*
 18 *tablished in section 403.*

19 (4) *COVERED NATIVE ENTITY.*—*The term “cov-*
 20 *ered Native entity” means a Native entity of a cov-*
 21 *ered State with interests in a coral reef ecosystem.*

22 (5) *COVERED STATE.*—*The term “covered State”*
 23 *means Florida, Hawaii, and the territories of Amer-*
 24 *ican Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-*

1 *iana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the United*
 2 *States Virgin Islands.*

3 (6) *NATIVE ENTITY.*—*The term “Native entity”*
 4 *means any of the following:*

5 (A) *An Indian Tribe (as defined in section*
 6 *4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-*
 7 *cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).*

8 (B) *An Alaska Native Corporation.*

9 (C) *The Department of Hawaiian Home*
 10 *Lands.*

11 (D) *The Office of Hawaiian Affairs.*

12 (E) *A Native Hawaiian organization (as*
 13 *defined in section 6207 of the Elementary and*
 14 *Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.*
 15 *7517)).*

16 (7) *SECRETARY.*—*The term “Secretary” means*
 17 *the Secretary of Commerce.*

18 **SEC. 403. ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

19 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*There is established a National*
 20 *Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.*

21 (b) *PURPOSES.*—*The purposes of the fellowship are—*

22 (1) *to encourage future leaders of the United*
 23 *States to develop additional coral reef management*
 24 *capacity in States and local communities with coral*
 25 *reefs;*

1 (2) *to provide management agencies of covered*
 2 *States or covered Native entities with highly qualified*
 3 *candidates whose education and work experience meet*
 4 *the specific needs of each covered State or covered Na-*
 5 *tive entity; and*

6 (3) *to provide fellows with professional experi-*
 7 *ence in management of coastal and coral reef re-*
 8 *sources.*

9 **SEC. 404. FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.**

10 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary, in partnership with*
 11 *the Secretary of the Interior, shall award the fellowship in*
 12 *accordance with this section.*

13 (b) *TERM OF FELLOWSHIP.*—*A fellowship awarded*
 14 *under this section shall be for a term of not more than 24*
 15 *months.*

16 (c) *QUALIFICATIONS.*—*The Secretary shall award the*
 17 *fellowship to individuals who have demonstrated—*

18 (1) *an intent to pursue a career in marine serv-*
 19 *ices and outstanding potential for such a career;*

20 (2) *leadership potential, actual leadership expe-*
 21 *rience, or both;*

22 (3) *a college or graduate degree in biological*
 23 *science, a resource management college or graduate*
 24 *degree with experience that correlates with aptitude*
 25 *and interest for marine management, or both;*

- 1 (4) *proficient writing and speaking skills; and*
2 (5) *such other attributes as the Secretary con-*
3 *siders appropriate.*

4 **SEC. 405. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

- 5 (a) *IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection*
6 *(b), the non-Federal share of the costs of a fellowship under*
7 *this section shall be 25 percent of such costs.*
8 (b) *WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may*
9 *waive the application of subsection (a) if the Secretary*
10 *finds that such waiver is necessary to support a project that*
11 *the Secretary has identified as a high priority.*

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117TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. 46

A BILL

To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.

DECEMBER 17, 2021

Reported with an amendment